



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Tuesday, June 27.

Ehrlichman got into a discussion this morning and later sent me a memo on his concern that we're not approaching scheduling in our general attitude properly. He's concerned about the Watergate caper, the Martha Mitchell episode, the \$10 million dollar fund reporting, the need for vetoes coming up, etcetera, and feels that because of these we can't keep the President aloof, that he's got to do some action to counteract these otherwise negative matters, and he's pushing for a different approach to schedule attitude.

The President got into the Congressional question. It appears to him at least after meeting this morning with the Senate finance Republicans that Congress will still be in on Saturday, so he doesn't want to set a Saturday event in California and he won't leave until the debt limit thing is resolved and Congress adjourns. He got back into the need to line up Democrats, thinks that we're not under tight enough control on that. That we should be lining up not only their Congressional and other VIP's, but all the education, labor, religious and so forth leaders that we can. That it has to be done now before the McGovern cleanup operations starts after the Convention.

He made the point that the theory is that the American people are like helpless children yearning for leadership, someone to tell them what to do, and therefore, you have to keep doing something in order to satisfy this yearning. This is the Connally theory pretty much. The problem is how you respond. The McGovern/Wallace response, if carried to any extreme, would be a disaster for the country. He wonders whether the staff is really obsessed with the domestic issues and therefore don't realize the enormous pull that foreign policy has, especially if properly presented. He's concerned whether we have real enthusiasm in our own group. He thinks there's a great difference between danger of complaisance and the danger of being negative, and that we need the McGovern approach. That we're proud that we're doing a great job and so on.

Kissinger came in and got into the fact all excited that Dobrynin had come in to tell him that the Soviets are sending a man over to negotiate the grain deal, at quite a substantial level, and that



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

we can move on it whenever we want to. The President said he wants to hold it to settle right after the Democratic Convention. Henry also said we can start the plenary session, as he's worked it out, in Paris and Vietnam on the 13th, with a secret session the following week, and that he has no concern about being able to keep the plenary thing going for several weeks, although the President was afraid it would blow right then. The value in keeping, of course, is to keep the Senate Democrats on the hook for a longer period of time.

The President got into quite a thing on his baseball piece he's written for the AP, the all-time great teams. He dictated it Sunday afternoon and he's spending an incredible amount of time today on the whole thing. Working out all the little details of which relief pitcher the American League prewar should be on, and all that sort of stuff. Kind of fascinating and not just a little amusing.

He talked to Billy Graham, and Billy's offered-- was calling to offer to help between John and Martha Mitchell on their problem and he's concerned about the publicity about Martha saying that John's in dirty politics and he thinks we need to do something to cope with that. Said he would talk with me this week and get going right away on trying to develop the great power of youth which he's convinced exists after Explo. Also he thinks the McGovern youth have been very effective and that Chicano at their Explo deal—who was the head of it—was very good. The President wants me to call him tomorrow and have him come out. Billy says he's willing to help any way he can. He makes the point to the President that McGovern as the son of a minister and was one himself, is using this. Also he's using his disciple of Eisenhower concept very heavily, and the National Council of Churches is turning over all their sources to him. He thinks that because of all this, the left may have the ideal front man in the form of the people's candidate as the nice guy next door, sincere, honest, and so on, and that we may end up, ironically, in the position of having the pros in the establishment with us and McGovern having the folks with him, which is a total reversal of the facts because we basically represent middle America and he the elite. In this respect our high level endorsements could hurt because they could put us in the bag with the old pros and so on. Billy told the President he's very worried. He's afraid our people



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

aren't enthusiastic enough. He had no particular advice for the President except to stay out of any of the nut-cutting. The President makes the point that we've got to look at this in terms of people, as Billy Graham does, not in terms of power centers as we're inclined to do.

End of June 27