



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

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Sunday, July 16.

The President had Ehrlichman, Kissinger, Ziegler, Haig, and me down for dinner tonight. Sort of one of those odd things where he insists on putting it together although none of us wanted to come. Couldn't exactly figure out what the reason for it was, but I think he wanted a general discussion of politics and such that it turned out to be. He went into a considerable general discussion on how things looked and so on, and then got into the Agnew question especially on strategy of how he should operate. He feels he should ignore Eagleton entirely and hit McGovern, but only on the issues never personally. That he's got to understand he's now in a different league and in a different time and that he'll get equal time with Eagleton no matter what, so he doesn't have to do the sensationalized stuff in order to get space. He should fight up, not down. He should not say clever things, and he should not take on the press at all from now on.

We also got into some schedule discussion. He's thinking about going to Hawaii to see Tanaka, the new Japanese Prime Minister after the Convention. Also possibly a State visit for the Italian Premier Andreotti in Washington and having Sinatra do his show as the entertainment for it. He was interested in the strategy memos from the staff that I sent him and had some comments on various of those. He was particularly interested that none of the ones I'd sent him indicated that foreign policy was the point which we should emphasize. All of them had all of the stuff on what he ought to do on domestic policy which he feels is totally wrong.

He got into press relations. Wants Ziegler to put together the 10 to 20 most important people for Kissinger, Ehrlichman, and our key people to see—the three networks, two wires, columnists with some influence on folks not the Osborne type. He then rapped Kissinger and Ehrlichman for meeting with Osborne. Discussed the use of Kissinger at the Convention for network interviews. Also Connally and Ehrlichman agreed that Henry should make no public appearances unless it's on TV in prime time.



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We had some discussion of demonstrators at the Convention which was a matter of some concern since it now looks as if there may be a major effort to provoke a confrontation and force some heavy repressive measures to make us look bad so we've got to work out a plan on that. All in all it was a very pleasant dinner and a rather good conversation, although no specific results. I think, as it turns out, it was just a desire to sit and chat with some of the key people.

End of July 16.