



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

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

Monday, July 24.

The President got into a lot of little political odds and ends today. He wants to get out that, without attribution, that he talked with Connally about the Vice Presidency thing back in San Clemente, so it doesn't look like Connally was dumped at the last minute. Rose is bitching about who's in charge of registering youth, and the President feels we should totally limit that activity to the key states. He's concerned about the plan in California and the fact that Nofziger's running the campaign, and that there are no Democrats on the Committee. He wants to get going on a campaign song. He thinks it has to be ready for the Convention. Wants to know who the orchestra is for the Convention.

Has the idea that I ought to talk to a group of press and make a pitch on the President's enormous responsibilities with the Japanese meeting, the negotiations, the dealings with Congress and so on. That he's working on a 16 hour day, and he has no intent of not participating in the hilt in with the campaign. That is because the issues are more clearly cut on the idea of ends versus means and National Defense, increased welfare and taxes, permissiveness-- law enforcement. That the responsibility now goes far beyond personality or Party, and it involves an honest difference in opinion regarding America's role in the world and what America should be in the future, but he's given instructions up and down the line that the campaign is to be on the issues not on personalities. That this is the most effective way to deal with it. At an early time he thinks we have to knock down the idea of coasting. He's concerned that our friends are saying, why don't we do something, and all. We can't give the impression that we're just sailing along, as Goldwater, Rose and others think he's doing. So we've got to say he's working hard and so on.

He wants to be sure all Wallace contacts are now handled through Connally, and he called LBJ at Connally's request today, and there's a memo in the file on that. Apparently it went very well and Johnson will encourage his people to support us behind the scenes. Although he will not come out himself, of course.



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

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

He's still a little concerned about the Watergate thing, but not pushing hard on that. Raised the point that Connally made to him that there's a lack of confidence in the quality of the political advice the President is getting. This is directed at the fact that Mitchell's gone, and I'm the only one advising him right now, and I suggested, which apparently Connally had also, that we ought to set up a political advisory board. We agreed to try to put Connally, Mitchell, Harlow, and MacGregor, Dole, Finch and me together for that kind of a group. He wants to meet with them on a fairly regular basis, like about once a week and thought we ought to start this week on the *Sequoia*. He's concerned that we double-check Colson on all names used for endorsements, to be sure they have really backed us. He wants John Eisenhower used for speaking. There's another flap with Pat Nixon and the girls with Connie Stewart that I've got to get untangled. And as usual, he's still concerned about some lasting phrases and good lines to use.

He had a session with Connally today that I guess went pretty well. But then Connally had lunch with Stans and MacGregor, and Stans started chewing on him in his usual fashion on the budget. And I guess Connally blew his stack, as discovered by a memo from Colson to the President. As a result, he says we won't watch the Democrats August 1 as planned. However, after Connally had left for Texas we had a call saying Wallace wanted to see him tonight. Colson got him when he landed at Texas, and he seemed to be in good spirits by then so it's probably one of his temporary flaps, although we've got to keep watching for those.

Billy Graham called tonight to report on his people's meeting with our youth division. He said that they were extremely impressed. They thought they had nothing to offer to us. That we were so far ahead of them that they would have to do the learning from us, which is gratifying to see that our operation at least looks good.

End of July 24.