



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

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Tuesday, July 25.

Mainly a political day. The President had a couple public events scheduled, which he got some good mileage out of but spent all the intervening time in political discussions. He wants to get the planning group together Friday night if we can, if Connally can make it. He wants MacGregor to have a staff morale session to pull in the enthusiasm of close-in troops, brief the Domestic Council, the writers, the Colson group, Rose, and so on, on what the campaign is doing, what Connally's doing, youth, where to write for Democrats, all that sort of thing. Then he wants them to do the Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet the same way, and then members of the House and Senate.

He analyzed his meetings with the various staff groups yesterday. Price's group, Elliot's and Ward Allen's. He felt that it was worthwhile and so decided to have Colson's group in today which he did. Gave them a lecture on the political importance of what they're doing.

He got into a discussion of how to handle Agnew. He feels we must not build him up in terms of where he goes and so forth. That we should put him in the South, the small states. No important duties. He feels he shouldn't have played tennis Saturday morning. He should have prepared for his press conference instead. He had a discussion with Ziegler on press conference strategy for himself. He thinks he'll do an informal press conference in San Clemente at the house after the Convention, taking all questions including political, and then on TV he will not take political questions.

Kissinger came in and we were discussing the need to answer Eagleton on his attack that we're keeping the troops in Vietnam until the last minute and then pulling them out just before the election. Kissinger makes the point that this assumes we can program Moscow, Peking, and Hanoi, and thus shows a total lack of understanding of foreign policy, shocking inexperience and ignorance. Plus the moral issue. To suggest that any President will delay the war's end is vilification of the worst sort and destroys his national unity. We should get someone to try and take Eagleton on with this.



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The other big Eagleton item today was his announcement that he had been in the hospital three times for mental illness, and we were all flabbergasted about that. Agreed that, at least the President, Buchanan, Kissinger, Ziegler and I all agreed, that it would mean that Eagleton would have to be dropped from the ticket, and the concern is that he might be replaced by Kennedy, which would be bad for us. We're actually better off with Eagleton than anyone else, so are not anxious to have him dropped off. In any event, it creates a monumental problem for them, at a time they were trying to stir up some blasts at us, but this will override those. The President called late this evening after he talked to Connally, and he said Connally had an interesting reaction which was that it's too bad it wasn't three weeks before the election. And Connally thinks that they'll keep Eagleton on, but might say that he'll say if there's any reoccurrence he would resign. And Connally said look at them, they played this all cool and everything and then they put the crazy man on the ticket, but he thinks they'll have to brazen it through. The President obviously is fascinated by the development as he can't help but be.

Connally called this afternoon to report on his meeting with Wallace. He said that Wallace would not make any categorical statement about not running, but he did say he would not do anything to help McGovern and he's almost certain he will not go with the third party, and he will not go with the American Party. Told Connally not to be worried about any stories over the next two to three days. He was going to be talking with a lot of people and so on. That he appreciated all the President had done. That all he wants is to be sure that his views got through. Connally says he wants someone to give him plaudits, recognize him, congratulate him, give him respectability. Connally told him he knew that he didn't want anything, but that Connally wanted the decision on what Wallace is going to do, because a number of the Wallace people Connally wants to hire, and he didn't want to do it without Wallace's concurrence. Wallace told him to wait until after the American Party Convention on August 3 before he moved on that. In the meantime Jacobson, Connally's man, was talking to Wallace's man, Schneider. Schneider gave them all their campaign materials and stuff, and Schneider's quite eager to go. He's going to push Wallace not to go to the AP convention. Wallace said I'm sure I won't run, but there are one or two chances in



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a million that lightning might strike. John thinks he wants just a little attention and to be recognized. Connally told him that the President made clear that all Democrats that support him will be on the same footing for appointments, judicial, ambassador, and so forth as Republicans. Wallace said he doesn't want anything, although some of his people may want money. Connally said he would talk only on the basis of his personal friendship and former Governorship, not on money, but he does know that all campaigns have a deficit and he's always available to talk about that area if Wallace wants to. Connally's tried to convince him that he can't help himself by going on a third party, it'll only help McGovern. That the only way for him and Connally to recapture the Democratic Party is to beat the hell out of McGovern. If you run on a third party and that causes the election to come out close, which it would, you destroy your chances and your influence forever. On the other hand, in '76, if you're health is good, you could run. Wallace said he doesn't want to run on a third party, that he's run enough this year. He mentioned the draft movement, and Schneider says this is because they've printed tickets for the Convention and are selling them for \$10 a piece and the Governor doesn't know it, and they're peddling it on the basis that the Governor will be there. Connally says he's obviously a sick man, and that Cornelia said he'd be two or three weeks in the hospital on therapy, and then they're taking a therapist home with them for a year. John is convinced that this is the most significant day in the campaign because Wallace is not going to run.

End of July 25.

The President called again late on the 25th to go over the question of whether he should go ahead with his planned press conference on Thursday in the midst of the Eagleton flap. He says we can decide it in the morning but he's thinking maybe he should shelve it until next Tuesday and then do the TV thing the following Tuesday. He feels that we shouldn't fight with a major story, but on the other hand, maybe it's good to be on with business as usual while they're in a flap, but he doesn't think that it's good for the President to go out and get a second play. He thinks we're positioned very well on this, which we are. He then said that in this Connally conversation, Connally couldn't have been in better shape. He wants us to have Haig go down to brief Wallace.



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Ask for his support on national defense. He wants someone-- MacGregor, Agnew, or someone-- to say that Wallace has made a constructive contribution to the political debate and his views should receive consideration, especially on national defense and law and order. Connally told the President he would handle the flap with Menfrey.

The President wants to go ahead with the strategy meeting for Thursday night without Connally, just Mitchell, MacGregor, Brownell and Harlow, and go ahead and do this about once a week. And he got back to the VP question. Thinks there's a real problem for McGovern if he puts Teddy on because he can then be asked if he has a satisfactory answer regarding Chappaquiddick, and has he seen the grand jury report. Then he summed it up, that these people are bad and they're getting what they asked for, which I really think is the case.

End of July 25.