



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

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Saturday, July 29.

The President's at Camp David. I stayed home. He called a couple of times in the morning to report on his golf game with Meany. Said there's a real hatred there toward McGovern, and absolutely no chance of his endorsing. Nobody could help, if they take Eagleton off the ticket, except Teddy Kennedy, and even there, it wouldn't make any real difference. Got into a general review of Eagleton, the Gallup poll that says that he shouldn't do it, the problem in the Democratic Committee selection process, whether they have to give notice two weeks ahead and all that sort of thing.

We reviewed a number of schedule items and plans for going down to the funeral on Monday. The President was concerned that we work it out so that McGovern doesn't go down with him, which, of course, we already had. Wallace announced his non-candidacy today, so that solves that problem.

End of July 29.

Going back to Saturday afternoon, the 29th.

The President called in the afternoon, reviewing the general situation. Feels that the other side has now a serious problem that we hadn't anticipated, because dropping Eagleton, in light of the poll, makes the move both unpopular and weak because he's not standing by his man. This is a mixed bag for us, because McGovern could be hurt by dropping him, so keeping him on is not necessarily to our advantage. The President had thought there was more sympathy than the editorials, and so on, would indicate. Eagleton's strong public support could give him more leverage in trying to stay on. He thinks, therefore, we should consider on Monday the question of the press conference; if they throw him off, then there should be no press conference if he stays on, we go ahead. The President, if he were in this position, would keep him on, unless he could get Kennedy-- to avoid getting the campaign bogged down for two or three weeks, not because of the merits. The natural desire of the press to help McGovern would swing behind him. Also,



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the problem of replacing him and delaying the campaign with the National Committee problem and all, adds up to keeping him on the ticket.