



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

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Thursday, August 3.

The President got into quite a thing this morning on plans for this evening and the weekend. He is going to have Bebe and Abplanalp all come up, go out to McCabe's place in Ocean City, MD, which Bebe is very reluctant to do, but the President is determined. He wants to take Mitchell along, too, which works out well, since Martha's going to be gone for the weekend. Tonight, he's going to take him, Finch, Klein, Ziegler, Colson, Timmons, Malek, and Chapin out on the *Sequoia* for a general discussion type dinner. He had Ehrlichman in this morning to discuss the basic problem of domestic intelligence, the need for our moving on IRS and Justice to get some action on tax and other matters involving people supporting the opposition. Apparently, Agnew called him last night regarding the Senate vote, which led him to think about this. Also, he has some concerns about some appointments in the education area, and made the comment to Ehrlichman that he's 1000 percent against the educational establishment, then said "If I may quote someone else", referring to McGovern who said he was 1000 percent for-- behind Eagleton, just before he fired him.

On political strategy, he makes the point now, that he thinks the martyrdom theory is now reversed. That is, we were concerned originally that we not hit McGovern too hard, so as not to martyr him. Now, he thinks that theory is reversed, that McGovern is under attack, he's shown he's mortal, that he has feet of clay, that he's a non-sympathetic character at the moment. And when a man has fallen in battle, the thing to do is hit him again while he's down to keep him down.

Monumental problem with Laird who was babbling around his opposition to the spending ceiling that we've proposed. The President ordered Ehrlichman to get a Laird statement saying he misunderstood this that it doesn't affect Defense and therefore he's for it. That won't solve it, because Laird will muddy it up somehow, but at least we'll take a stab at it. Went through a number of just general campaign needs. He wants to get Perle Mesta on the Democrats. He wants to get Yorty announced, get Harlow to travel with the Vice President, use Chotiner for enemy



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intelligence, take Mrs. Nixon to Hawaii and do a Clair Luce bipartisan reception, which she suggested to Henry.

He talked to Colson about the voter block groups. He doesn't think they're worth a damn in our general organization, but a front organization like the Democrats is indispensable. That we should have Democratic lawyers, Democratic doctors, Democratic Italians, and so forth, and that we need these in order to space them out and use it for purpose of mailings and to get publicity stories for the Democrats after their original announcement. He's pushing for an immediate effort in Missouri, because of the Eagleton question, getting bumper stickers and registration, capitalize on the reaction there as quickly as we can.

End of August 3.