



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

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Monday, August 14.

Back in Washington for a heavy schedule today before returning to Camp David for more work on the speech. President met first with Connally at 9:00 this morning, got into a number of things on ideas for the campaign. Agreed to spend the night at Connally's when he does the Democratic-- Democrats for Nixon deal at his ranch. Agrees that we should get Billy Graham to talk to Lyndon Johnson and urge him to be cool to MacGregor when he comes to see him next week, making that point Johnson's friends won't understand if he puts his arm around him. Connally recommends that we crank up Milt Friedman on the International Economic thing, because Arthur Burns is cutting us up with the Jewish columnist. Also thinks we should use Rinfret to take on the others. Connally felt Rogers did not do a good job in attacking Shriver, that he didn't nail him hard enough, and that we need someone else other than Rogers to do this. This doesn't jibe with our earlier input and actually Connally came back to me later in the day and said he had had another reading on that and revised his view. He feels we need someone in the defense field also besides Laird, but that we should get Laird to work as mean as possible. We should make all our responses in the form of an attack, we should not defend against their charges, and that we have to destroy Shriver now. President asked him for ideas on his acceptance speech, and he made the point that he should hit hard, be political, give a fighting speech. He should take on the defense thing strongly, hit permissiveness, welfare, the idea of the ring-around-the-Treasury. That he should hold up on unleashing Agnew for a while, not until September anyway, but should throw in Rogers, Laird, and Stein hard now.

Next meeting was with Mitchell and MacGregor, on the general political question, they made a pitch, or MacGregor did, that California is very much improved, that Reagan is broadening the base, problem is Finch and his activities, press conferences and so on. Finch announcing how the President would open his campaign, which has got Reagan upset. President told me to get Finch to quit doing this. Clark wanted to know what the President's September plans were, and President told him to say the line there was it depends on how long Congress is here, that he will not be out campaigning until they adjourn, although he actually will be. That he should not



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speculate on what he'll be doing after that. Regarding the strategy on a debate: first, make the point that the President doesn't intend to debate, especially because of the way McGovern is distorting things. Secondly, hang the whole thing on the national interest, just as LBJ decided to do. And on 315, if repeal is involved, the President might sign it, so we've got to be prepared on that.

Then into the question of Watergate, President made the point that we should wait until the indictment. No, the question was raised whether we should wait until the indictment or whether we should prepare in advance. We must make a case for the reelection committee on how it conducted its own investigation, so that when the grand jury indicts, it will cover the noninvolvement of others. First, we should leak out now about our investigation. And second, while the President's in Hawaii, MacGregor should put out a statement describing the results of the investigation. Forget the legal question, deal with the political PR, get our line out in our way. If we can absolve all the top officials, then we should put it at the lowest common denominator. The funds were misused, the culprits have left, no one else was involved. But we must be sure of our facts from the grand jury and we must know what Justice is going to seek out of the grand jury. Be sure of those facts.

President then met with Moynihan, who's writing an article for the *New York Times Magazine*, and wanted to get a view of the President's look at his second four years. President expanded quite completely for Pat at on this, made the point of the coherent philosophy, tying in foreign policy, economic policy, and domestic policy. He should say that here there is a new philosophy and a new way. Make the point that the FDR coalition was made up because they wanted to win, but they didn't belong together, they were drawn together by their fears. First, the economy and then the war. Our new coalition will be held not by fears but by common hopes and a shared philosophy. Not total agreement, but a recognition of the need for civility, of different ways to approach the government goals-- great goals. In other words, we will form a national coalition that shares common views regarding what the country ought to be, at home and abroad. We have to find coherent policies, not to suit the new left or the new libs, but closer to the 19th century



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liberals. Internationalism without imperialism. Change that works. Constructive. We'll build, not destroy, based on the old values. We have to find a way to get the pragmatists and the idealists together. Moynihan was ecstatic with all this material, and got quite responsive and excited with the President's views, and should come up with a pretty good article.

President went through quite a few speech needs this afternoon, wants some specific lines and thoughts from Buchanan on the general thrust of the acceptance speech, was concerned about the line we're putting out particularly on how we're handling the Shriver and Clark attacks. Feels that we should be hitting Shriver hard on the point that he didn't know what was going on, so he was wrong on this thing. That he was not told anything, because LBJ didn't trust him and we don't believe he knew. There should be a categorical denial that we ever discussed anything with Shriver.

On the POW offer from Ramsey Clark, we should refer to the fact that McGovern came back with the same deal from Paris, it turned out to be a phony, now Ramsey Clark is also a phony. We got into quite a thing with Colson and Haig on this, and the point that Haig doesn't want to push too hard, because at the proper time, Kissinger will pull the rug out from the whole thing. We must stay away from it until we know what he has. The problem is that Clark may have a legitimate POW offer. Like that they'll release a few now, and a few when the bombing stops, or something, and it might backfire on the basis that he did get the prisoners. So everyone backed off today and laid low on it, which was probably just as well. Connally had some feeling that we had the opportunity to really jump this on the basis that Bill Jordan and Kissinger shop was the staff man in Paris for Harriman and Vance, and knows everything about it.

We can be sure of our facts, but he says don't let the issue die, we have the chance to destroy Shriver, we should document the fact that there's no evidence here. Get a statement from Rusk or Rostow, which Bill Rogers is going to follow-up on. We had an idea that we get some mileage out of Max Taylor's book, and that he eats Harriman alive, because Harriman went counter to Rusk, and that Bill Rogers or someone should use the quotes on that. So everybody's getting into



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the act and all cranked up about it. President wants to be sure that all hands call upon Shriver, Clark, McGovern, and so on, to denounce the North Vietnamese atrocities such as in Binh Dinh province.

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[Begin tape reel AC-24(A)]

[August] 14, 1972 continued--We're now up at Camp David probably for the rest of the week while the President works on his acceptance address.

End of August 14.