



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

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Sunday, August 20.

The President had me over to Aspen at 9:30 this morning. Says he may go back this afternoon and get to work down there. Is fascinating with the Gallup poll and the Sunday papers said. He had been up since 7:00. Particularly concerned about the Catholics swinging back to McGovern. The fact that we're behind with youth, although in the Harris poll we were ahead. He was surprised by our big lead in the West. Feels we should watch for distortion of poll data, such as the Gallup story in the *Post*.

Mentioned that he nearly broke his ankle last night, when he took a walk with Henry and stepped into a manhole or something here at Camp David and twisted his ankle. He was limping this morning.

Kissinger came in, we had a discussion about his activities at the Convention. Agreed that he should do as much social stuff as he wants, that he should take interviews only in the box, on an informal basis, should not schedule any formal interviews. He should do the youth caucuses, but not on not for television.

President asked me to have Andrews and Price take a stab at the conclusions to the speech. He wanted the Bible thing from Andrews, particularly regarding children and peace, wanted Price to work on a short conclusion with uplift and emotional impact, very personal with dedication to peace and better life for the people. They turned it in, but they didn't have what the President wanted, and they didn't really accomplish much. He had me over twice and went through reviews of segments of the speech, still trying to work on the conclusion.

He had Ziegler, Kissinger, and me for dinner at Aspen. Mainly just chitchat and some general speech strategy, as well as political discussion of how McGovern's doing and so on. Then at 9:15, he had me back over to Aspen, read through some of what he was working on, I made some suggestions. Still on the conclusion, primarily. At 10:30, he called me again, asked me to come down and meet him at Laurel, said he had shifted around the things I'd suggested, and he



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thinks it'll work now, and he wants to review it with me. So we went down, I met him in the office at Laurel and he skimmed through the whole speech, which he now has basically put together, and then the conclusion, which works pretty well. It is a tough and political speech, it does attack, it does build on the issues, but it'll be controversial. I think it's right, but it's hard to tell.

End of August 20.