



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

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Monday, August 21.

Connally called up this morning to report on Lyndon Johnson's feelings. He had talked to Johnson, he's mad as hell, furious about the whole McGovern approach to things. He's told McGovern he'll meet with him for one hour, that there's to be no press and no pictures. Then McGovern will have a press conference afterwards. Particularly furious that Shriver made the point that Johnson passed up the opportunity for peace also and is extremely unhappy with the ticket. So they're going to have some problems on that. Connally at the VFW in Minneapolis, says that some of those VFW people are pushing him. That since McGovern's there, the President should come, but Connally doesn't feel he should do so. He thinks we're in great shape with the VFW, that other things are all going awfully well, so good that it's frightening. Argues that the President should not be personal, but it's okay for him to hit hard. He's concerned about too much hope on our side, thinks we should be very careful in building false hopes.

VP called from the Convention regarding the rules fight. He talked to Reagan this morning, and in the Rules Committee there's a delicate shading in what they're doing, they're going to put through a lot of changes that won't be apparent to us, but will hurt us in the long run. The VP's people think that they have a signal that they shouldn't let it go down the tube that is a signal from us. And they're thinking about letting Reagan step down from the Chair and take over on the floor to handle the fight. VP feels that if he's identified, it will be a personality battle, which would be bad, so he'll stay out of it, but they need the use of our machinery, the communications system on the floor. He says it's a subtle deal here, of a bonus deal for governors that sounds okay, but shifts 24 percent of the delegate voting strength from the Southwest to the Northeast. Same problem with Senators. It was very close in the Rules Committee, and they may have to have a fight on the floor. He thinks that Timmons seems to feel they should take an aggressive role, that Reagan will be carrying the flag. Talked to Ehrlichman about the same subject, he says Percy thinks the liberals are licked, but that there will be a bloody fight, so he wants to compromise.



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Timmons has asked Ehrlichman to go the floor leaders meetings and to say tonight that if there is anything on the floor, it should be clear that they're doing it as individuals, not as the President's apparatus. Our people, apparently, are split evenly on it.

Wanted me up to the Aspen pool at noon, said he wanted me to check with Mrs. Eisenhower and see if she's at the farm, if we could drop in to see her after the tribute to Eisenhower at the Convention today. She was delighted to do it, so we set it up on that basis. Had a very good visit with her, had to sit around and wait for quite a while, because Ron didn't have the press there. Would have made a good story, she did a superb job in the film at the Convention.

President got into some further questions he needs on speech statistics, he wants to use a figure of what their platform will cost, say it will increase taxes over 50 percent, and add over 80 million to the welfare rolls. President reviewed his speech again with me, he keeps going over it, trying to assure himself that he's on the right track. He's still not really convinced that he is, but he's pretty well past the point of no return now.

End of August 21.