



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

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Wednesday, September 13.

At Camp David. He called me over this morning, talked about the foreign policy speech, thinks Connally should do it instead of the Vice President. He doesn't want Agnew hitting out too early against McGovern, and thinks on the foreign policy issue, Connally will do it with more steam. He should talk about the bipartisan foreign policy tradition of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and so on. Hit the bugout and amnesty. Problem is Colson's already talked to the VP, so I have to tell the VP we don't want him to do this, and then discuss with Connally his doing it.

He laid out the outline of why America must come before Party in this election, on the foreign policy pitch. Number one, take McGovern on a Defense and his whole deal regarding the second best navy and so on. Two, in foreign policy, his plan to withdraw from the world, how it frightens our friends. Third, bugout on Vietnam and amnesty. Fourth, the positive thing. In years ahead, who should sit on the other side of the table. Fifth, the whole approach from McGovern violating the bipartisan foreign policy, and ironically it was the Democrats who were the Party of the internationalists, and the Republicans were the isolationists, but that's now changed.

Got into a great deal of schedule planning again. All kinds of wild ideas like visiting his father's home in Ohio, stopping at Indiana on the way to Texas. He wants to go ahead and open the Mint even though our people object to it. Thinks he has some ideas on how to handle a New York dinner, and that sort of thing. Wants to go ahead on Boston, not Providence. Weighs the question of whether to go into Senate seat races or not. Decides he probably shouldn't. Really questions how helpful a stop in a state is to a Senate candidate anyway. Then we settled on the basic plan of taking the first after the Texas and California trips, then the next week going into Atlanta for a motorcade and press conference, the following week to Boston, then something else the week after that, then Chicago the following, and New York the last week, with two or three other days of campaigning in each of the last two weeks ending up at the Astrodome on Friday night, November 3. Went over the problems of other cities that we have to cover. Then raises the point that he has to do the Mormon Tabernacle, he thinks, at some point.



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Tonight we had Mitchell, MacGregor, and Connally up for dinner and a general political planning session. Spent quite a little time on the Watergate. Agreed that the commission idea was no good, we'll go just with the press conference by Peterson of Justice and follow-up by MacGregor.

On advertising, he okayed the present plan to start the anti-McGovern commercials next week. He went through his whole schedule thing, and they all agreed with the basic approach. Did suggest that he ought to do Buffalo, that he ought to do a small town, that he needed something on a farm basis, and then he made the pitch to Connally about doing the foreign policy speech, and Connally bought it completely, so I guess we got that locked. Overall good constructive planning meeting.

End of September 13.