



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

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Tuesday, October 24.

The more I get to thinking about it, the more the President was concerned about motorcade security. I told him about the report of someone picked up with a shotgun. And he made the point that we should be concerned somewhat with the danger -- that McGovern haters are dangerous type people, especially as they get backed into a corner in desperation, and this raises a question of whether it's wise to do any more motorcading. On Chicago, he wants to make a very short run. And then we got into quite a discussion of the cancellation of Ohio. He was looking for reasons-- the war, security, health, weather, so on, but, the more we talked about it, the more it became obvious that we would have to go ahead with it. Although he did have me meet with Connally separately before the political meeting this afternoon, to get his view on it. He, too, feels that there is a certain risk, and that we shouldn't do anymore than we have to. He agrees with the idea of cancelling the California motorcade and the Denver event altogether, so we're going to do just an airport arrival in California, and bring the Mountain people into the Chicago regional meeting, so we don't have to make the stop in Denver.

This is the first time that I've seen the President concerned about security, but I think that he's now feeling that since we've got the win pretty well locked up anyway, there's no point in running an unnecessary and undue risk. He raised the question again of why we don't have somebody file a lawsuit to knock down the Watergate story, without getting into specific denials, but just a general suit by one of the injured parties.

We had our regular political strategy meeting this afternoon for a couple of hours, with Connally, Ehrlichman, MacGregor, Colson, and Mitchell. Connally opened, making the point about the peace negotiations, hoping that there wouldn't be anything before the election. It would hurt us because it would look expedient. The President explained the problem, said that negotiations are in a delicate stage, and we have to deal with them as they come. Connally then said that it's important that it appears that the President is in charge, that it's not Kissinger who is running this.



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Also, the President made the point that our role now is to play it loose regarding the election, to keep McGovern off balance and mainly try to keep the whole thing confused. The President told MacGregor that he should not go on the *Today Show* versus Warnke. But then as they got over talking about what he ought to say-- any idea of avoiding anything current-- the President told him to go ahead, but to attack, not defend. MacGregor said that Kissinger and Haig both felt that we needed him to go on to provide an answer, and that what he should do is make the point that McGovern and the peace by surrender group have seriously delayed the possibility of a settlement. The point was raised for a need for an economic attack on MacGregor, with Stein, Rumsfeld and Walker being our best spokesmen, also Renfrey ought to be turned loose and that we hit that his program would mean higher taxes, higher prices, higher unemployment and a recession. The President wanted to get a 60 second radio spot going on this now also.

Some discussion on the advertising and it was agreed that we should go heavier on the attack ads -- two-thirds on the attack, one-third positive, and, some copy changes were worked on the "fip-flop" tape, to bring it up to some more current issues. We agreed to the President going on television next Thursday for a half hour, a high level type speech.

End of October 24.