



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

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Monday, November 6.

Colson was pushing this morning for a stronger arm by the President, as a result of McGovern's very rough TV thing last night-- using a lot of horror stuff on Vietnam, that Father Thikaya was killed, etcetera, but everybody else thinks that the President shouldn't do anything on it. And I think we can hold it down at least for now.

He did his TV taping today, and it was pretty funny. They had trouble getting started and then got pretty well into the first take, and they had to cut because of a fly moving around. The President made some pretty funny cracks as they tried to get rid of the fly. He said they'll never get it with a swatter-- then he said, "if you've got a fly, you've got a fly. Let's go ahead." They finally got two pretty good takes, and we'll go ahead with them on that basis.

He called from the Residence and said-- wondered if we could work in the crowd shots from yesterday-- Saturday, which I told him he couldn't do. He said that he talked to Connally, Mitchell and MacGregor, and they were all in good spirits. I talked to Connally too. He thinks we're in great shape. That they've gotten meaner on all of us, that he has no problem readings at all, there is very little apathy, there will be a very heavy vote all over the United States. The only thing is minds are made up-- that's why they don't show interest now. The absentee voting is exceptionally heavy. Says that everybody is still afraid of McGovern. There's no diminution in any area, the only problem is that the big majority has never been done before, and it's hard to believe that we can approach it. He figures it will come out about 58-42, it's hard to believe that it can be bigger than that. He points out the enormous change in the political structure since '64, for instance the blacks have isolated themselves. A whole change in philosophy in motivating factors. He has no concern on Vietnam thing, and he's a little bit sad that the President had his last political rally last Saturday night.

End of November 6.

Addendum to November 6.



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It's ironic-- in terms of the whole North Vietnam situation at this point-- that McGovern has cut loose on these last couple nights with his complete all-out blast at the President on Vietnam, making the point primarily that we have no deal and that there isn't going to be any peace, when on Saturday we got the word from North Vietnam that we had a date set, of the 14th -- or whatever other date that Kissinger wanted to confirm -- for the next meeting. So we knew that we had the thing ready to go, but couldn't say anything about it, and just had to let McGovern kick us around.