



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Friday, November 10.

The President had me over at 11:30 again for a couple of hours for another general discussion. He had talked to John Connally and said he wants to see him in the early part of when we get up to Camp David. He talked with MacGregor and asked him to send him recommendations on the people for the National Committee and other jobs. Wants to be sure that we get Malek's recommendations on political people.

We had talked yesterday and earlier about the Colson role, and he said he's still not sure on that. But the proposals I raised are either that we move him to Congressional relations in the White House, or move him outside and set him up in a new law firm, and let him build a new establishment and work on new majority projects, which I think probably is the best, and that seems to be what the President is leaning to. I don't know if we'll be able to persuade Colson on that.

He wants Chuck to get going on interpretation of results -- as the officer in charge, using Buchanan -- make the simple points of a dirty campaign against Nixon; the clean campaign that Nixon waged; interpret the Congressional results in a proper way; interpret the election, as not just a plague on both houses, but actually approval for Nixon. He wants to get the point that he made in the Horner interview, but Ziegler cut out, about the political elements that some of the media were misinterpreting about McGovern, and were unfair to him, in blaming him rather than his positions. They shouldn't blame the man, this was a straight up and down vote on Vietnam, amnesty, welfare, pot and so forth, and the people just rejected his positions. Also, go back to the "come back" theme, over enormous odds, also the point that the President has less support among the working press, than any President, because their views are different and that's what the country was speaking to. He said we shouldn't get away with the whole "ho-hum" attitude that McGovern lost and Nixon didn't win, or that he didn't help the Party as much as he should have. He wants a manifesto on the dirtiest campaign in history against a President, the shouting down, violent disruption and so on. Wants to build the point of the Democrats dumping



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McGovern and his policies, and then concentrating on the balance of the ticket by splitting. Also that the low turnout was due to the knowledge that Nixon had already won according to all the polls, so there was no need to vote. He wants a totally orchestrated operation on this to really sell the case. Wanted to check the California turnout versus national to find out what was the Republican vote turnout and what was the [unclear]. Wants to really hit the failure of the Republican Party.

Wants to be sure Rogers puts a freeze on the *Post* and *Times* and CBS. No conversation at all, until the Vietnam negotiations are over. That it's unconscionable that they would leak the letter to Thieu and so on, we're doing this at the White House and you must do it at State too. Wants Ehrlichman to have the New York law firm work out giving the San Clemente house to the government, he wants to do it now and rub the noses at the critics that have said he's making money on it. At least check this out. Ehrlichman thinks that it's a bad idea because it's the one major asset that the President's got.

On the Secret Service, he says the family doesn't want them, and since the law doesn't require it, they will only have full coverage when they are on public events, but they're not to follow them when they are out on personal errands or with friends. They are to work this out individually as to what Julie, and Tricia and the President want, for everything except in public places. He emphasized the need to find a Pole or an Italian Catholic for the Court, preferably a Democrat. Also for other courts, concentrate on Democrats, Catholics, South, ethnics. Wants to be sure Colson stays on the project of running down the Democratic money sources. We then got into the whole personnel thing again, and he seemed quite pleased with the approach we're taking on the Cabinet. I went through the results of the Kissinger discussion last night, and some of the other ideas that we have, such as the Schlesinger thing at CIA. He thought that was very good idea. And he likes Walter Washington for the UN. He thinks we should go outside for the ethnic types for HUD, Transportation, HEW, and get the new majority types in there, also at Commerce and Labor and Transportation. He was delighted because Colson told him that his margin now



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was 61.01, so he's over 61 and thinks maybe he can get to 61.2, which would beat Johnson by the time all the absentees are in.

He called later this evening furious by the Navy episode where Zumwalt and the Navy officers had failed to act on the blacks that refused to sail on the Constellation. He's told Henry to have Laird order all the men court-martialed and give them dishonorable discharges. Zumwalt, instead, gave them active shore stations with Coca-Colas and ice cream. You can't have a service without discipline, and he wanted Ehrlichman to let Zumwalt know that the President was terribly displeased. He said, you know he's a McNamara man. He had dinner with Kay Graham five times in the last month. We wanted to let him know fast and hard that the President's distressed. Also that none of us called him on this -- no one thought to call him -- which is, I guess, what I have to do-- is find out these things for myself. He obviously was substantially displeased. He then got onto the election interpretation again, and the need to get across the positive as well as the negative win. The triple play of China, Moscow, and May 8, plus the social issues. Then he says we can't just coast in the next four years, we can't just go with the same old team. Our goals have to be a new world of peace, a new party, and a new reform of domestic policy. And that we've got to concentrate on building those goals and first of all now putting a team together that can.

End of November 10.