



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

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Thursday, January 7.

The President still at San Clemente, and I'm still at Palm Springs. The President called to say he had talked to Finch this morning, and that it was clear to him that Mitchell and I were going to have to keep very tight control over the political operation. He had learned from Bob that Finch had started maneuvering in the Scott versus Dole situation. As a result of which, he had sent Goldwater to see Scott, to promise that Goldwater and his troops would not oppose-- actually, that they would actually back Scott, for leader, if Scott would back Dole. This is directly contrary to the plan we were working, which was on the basis that we-- Scott had no strength and we had-- didn't have to give him anything. We could simply take a strong and firm position that we wouldn't oppose, or that Dole wouldn't oppose him, but that we would make no promises of support. Now that's been blown and will put us in a serious problem vis-à-vis our own forces in the Senate. Many of them feel that Howard Baker has a real chance to get the leadership post.

The President felt maybe we should have Mitchell come out here to discuss the whole political situation, and had me call John, which I did, and we agreed that we'd wait until we got back to Washington. The President feels we have to give Finch something to do that gives him status and responsibility but that keeps him under control in the political area. For example, we could put him in charge of youth and other groups of that kind, and also give him responsibility for one or two states, like Pennsylvania, take on the YR's and all of that, that Mitchell has no affinity for. But that we can't give him control, we've got to keep John in overall control. There is a real question as to whether that can be done. When I called Mitchell after the President's call, John was very upset about the whole situation. He felt that we had a real problem. As a result of that, I called Finch, and it's perfectly clear that Bob had just moved unilaterally, decided what ought to be done, and did it. Unfortunately, he was wrong in this decision.

Chapin and I are making some progress in discussing the general PR and organizational setup, and I've got to get to work now in putting some specifics down, and getting a plan worked out.

End of Decem-- of January 7.