



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

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Tuesday, August 3.

President spent the whole day holed up at the EOB getting ready for his press conference, except for a long meeting this morning with John Connally. The result of that, plus his long meeting last night with Shultz and Connally, was a decision to delay the big economic plan until September 8. The problem is, they can't really get the staff work done on it and have it ready to launch this week. There's also some other advantages to holding off and doing it next week, in any event.

There was a major stir this morning on the Texas busing question, as a result of some phone calls late last night when Harry Dent informed the President that the Southern chairmen were going to join the Buckley move in suspending the support of the President, as a result of the decision to appeal the Austin school decision. The President was very disturbed about this last night and had them all stirring. And then this morning, Connally, Mitchell, and Shultz all met together, with Ed Morgan and others in and out, to try and figure out how to resolve it. The net result was that there wasn't anything we could do; we'd have to take our lumps now. We have to go ahead with the appeal. If we don't, the issue will keep rattling around and come back to haunt us later this year and next year, where if we get it settled once and for all, it may be gone by next year. This, at least, was the decision.

The President had me over at midday to go over some scheduling questions. He's still debating whether to take a several-stop swing across the country on the way to California, or just do Dallas and on into LA., so we're trying to work that out. Because of the Texas school bus problem, we now don't feel we can spend much time in Dallas, or anywhere else in Texas, because there'll be some strong adverse reaction.

End of August 3.