



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

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Thursday, February 19.

Another day of concentration on the school/race problem. By coincidence had appointments with Strom Thurmond (general), Richard Russell (to report on meetings this week of Southern Governors and senators and publishers) and a couple of Southern congressmen during Congressional half hour. All this got President thinking even more about the problem, and hardened his conviction that we have to take affirmative action in hopes that we'll stop the trend of the Courts.

Was really mad about report that DC school board had caved in and fired a white principal and put in a black. Afraid if we let all this go on, it will result in adverse counteraction that will build a monstrosity, i.e., Wallace. Is convinced, though, that Northern liberals, i.e. Ribicoff and Bayh, are going anti-busing only to trap the Administration politically. Is really afraid we're in a dilemma. If we strongly oppose de facto integration court may still go against us, i.e., on Los Angeles case, and then President has to enforce order he has opposed - but if we don't lead in opposing the trend, we'll have impossible decisions. Way out is that government can interpret the Court in a very narrow way, and we must.

As one idea, wants to get a right wing demagogue into some tough race and have him go on basis of anti-integration - would get enormous reaction, might even win.

Feels now we have to develop a careful plan for the whole approach to schools. Can't go on fuzzing the issue forever. Wants Agnew to go ahead with his speech - but doesn't want Buchanan to write it. Wants to work on revision of it himself.

Started pushing again on wide range of general follow-through items: press release strategy, letters to editors, ABM vote strategy, action in DC, crime follow-through, economic situation.

Meeting in EOB with Tower, et al., late afternoon, regarding Senate races. President reviewed all seats - not too much we can do at this point.



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Andrew Wyeth dinner - great success, with Rudolf Serkin as entertainment. One of the best functions - key seems to be a homogeneous group, i.e., Duke Ellington, Golda Meir and this one. Hard for the mixed groups at the others to develop much rapport and so those parties never seem to really take form.

President met with Kissinger after the party, 11:30 pm, about his trip instructions and briefings.