Wednesday, July 8.

President had breakfast with key GOP leaders and staff about policy for future vetoes - and plan for House action on Cooper-Church. Now feel they can defeat it on a straight floor vote in House.

Ziegler talked President out of his plan for staff dinner on *Sequoia* tonight, because it really cut up the Women's Press Club party. President not happy but gave in.

So we had the meeting in afternoon at EOB - regarding plan for VP. President made pitch to Harlow to take on this responsibility, and he's basically agreed - didn't have much choice. All agreed that he (VP) is the big gun for campaign - but must not use overblown rhetoric, personal attacks, racism, anti-youth. President fears he will be destroyed by forces he may underestimate. Feels, too, that he must not just be limp guy praising Family Assistance Plan. Should be strong, vigorous, kick Congress, praise President, lay off of kids, blacks and ne'er-do-wells - and from time to time, kick the bejesus out of the networks, to keep them honest. Imperative that he shift thinking to terms of local play, not national headlines. Must build for the candidate.

A little problem today as President launched his Indian message with meeting with Taos tribe. No one mentioned the whole deal would have to be translated.

President had long session in morning with Laird and Kissinger. Laird pushing for accelerated troop withdrawals and decreased bombing and tactical air, as result of budget cuts. Kissinger fighting to maintain current levels - at least through July, to maintain pressure. President assured Kissinger he would back him.

President still keeps the main heat on me regarding PR follow-up - regarding family, himself, the program, the opposition, etc. He's right, but it's hard to stay at top trim on all these fronts all the time. Have to keep hammering away at the troops.