



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

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Friday, August 14.

Trip to New Orleans. Smashing success from all views. Finch and Harlow, both adamantly opposed to making trip, were highly enthusiastic, also Garment, Dent, Rumsfeld, LaRue, Moynihan, Clark Reed, etc. Great street crowds both going in and leaving - very enthusiastic. President did superb job of handling the whole desegregation business - and that was, of course, the basis of everyone's concern. He started with the Louisiana committee - who were at loggerheads when we arrived at the end of their meeting. After President spoke to them, they reconvened and put it all together. Then he opened the Southern media briefing, and surprised them by giving very full and clear statement regarding desegregation - the briefing was on foreign policy. Then to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of all the State committees - scheduled for one and a half hours, stayed on extra hour, and apparently did extremely well. Then a statement for press, on camera, which was great. Ended by saying the real news in South this fall will be the great proportion of successful desegregation, not the few where it goes wrong - so up to the press to report the positive story. Then a reception for everybody - fabulous food, vodka, caviar, beef fondue, shrimp, clams, etc., and back to DC.

President very pleased with the day. Had Harlow, Finch, Shultz, Moynihan up for most of the trip home.

Hit me again on staff - feels we have remarkable group in the operating area, but weak in creative research. Wants to get more of the young lawyer types - with brains, mystique, potential senators. Feels, with Harlow, that we're not getting hold of the bureaucracy, and wants to push Bryce's idea of shifting everyone around, as a major program to break up the entrenched relationships, etc.

Feels he needs one man for himself, about 30 years old, as his assistant for preparation of material, always fully available to him for last minute needs - to do good statements, eloquent letters, etc. Feels our current staff's work is very good, but is just the beginning, needs an alter ego to ride on it, finalize it, handle the whole thing for him.