



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

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Wednesday, September 9.

Long morning meeting with political operations and VP's crew for the campaign. President really in his element as he held forth, for Satire and Buchanan - on speech content, campaign strategy, etc. Came up with some darn good lines and ideas - all the stuff he'd like to say, but can't.

President was delighted with Pat's kickoff speech for VP - which really hits hard. Really wants to play the conservative trend and hang the opponents as left wing radical Liberals, i.e. said to say "Our opponents are not bad men - they are sincere, dedicated radicals. They honestly believe in the liberal Left." And force them on the defensive, to deny it, as they did to us about Birchers in '62.

Had me over to EOB for four hours in afternoon. Reviewed VP speech again, with ideas of themes to pick up: preempt "moderates", Silent Majority will no longer be silent - will be heard by their votes; public esteem for Congress lowest in years; dignity, decency of President, from Middle America and proud of it.

Then added Kissinger, for planning of European trip. Decided to go ahead with one week shot, 27th to 5th, including London, Italy (Pope, government, 6th fleet, Naples), Spain, Belgrade, Ireland. Then in to Paris on Monday to announce our plan for standstill cease-fire. Talked about ways of building that up in United States, time problem for TV. Kissinger had full plan worked out, and President bought it pretty fully.

Then came problem of telling Rogers. President worked out whole plan - I call Rogers, tell him this is the plan for political campaign purposes (leaving out Spain and the Paris part) and try to sell him on not objecting. Then have him come over to meet with President, Kissinger and me to discuss it. We did and it worked fine - in spite of Kissinger's frantic concern that Rogers would louse it all up. He agreed to the whole deal, and President added Spain. President called me later (as did Kissinger) pleased with how it had worked, and said this was the way to handle Kissinger-Rogers problems, with me as intermediary. Afraid it won't always work.



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Also discussed hijacking. They now have plan for guards on planes. And discussed plans for President visit to UN, meetings with heads of state, dinner, etc.