



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

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Saturday, September 12.

At Camp David. President slept most of the morning. Worked on speech and accumulated follow-up folders in afternoon. Then had me over for several hours, to clean up his notes. Sat in the study.

Has several plots he wants hatched. One to infiltrate the John Gardner "Common Cause" deal and needle them and try to push them to left. Feels we can benefit from a third party to the left - I'm not so sure, might push Democrats to center, better to have them go left. Next, a front that sounds like SDS to support the Democratic candidates and praise their liberal records, etc., publicize their "bad" quotes in guise of praise. Give the senators a "radiclib" rating.

Lots of ideas for using Len Hall - as the dealmaker, because Chotiner not well suited to this.

Wants to crack hard on student issue this week - 1) a piece of legislation to show some action; 2) game plan Scranton Report and turn it around; 3) get a confrontation with demonstrators; 4) his letter regarding Hook column to establish position; 5) Ed Morgan's statement against busing; 6) our move regarding pornography.

Pushing again on project of building our establishment, in press, business, education, etc. Long general talk about '72 plans, and after. Agrees with my idea that we should shoot generally for replacing all key people by mid '73 - and then really charge ahead to accomplish something during first half of second term - our potentially most productive period. No problems of political balance, etc. - and a favorable Congress, hopefully. Fun to contemplate. In meantime should gear everything to '72, re-election and winning Congress. Not a bad approach anyway. In most cases what's good politically will be good otherwise also.

He agrees, too, with my concern about who runs '72 campaign - have to get a new RNC Chairman (I hope Rumsfeld will take it - he's the best on the scene) and get a few guys like Mitchell, Kleindienst, Len Hall, Finch, etc., ready to start operating fast. Must lock up key states so no Convention battle, no favorite sons, nominate by acclamation and use Convention to



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launch campaign on big positive basis. Need to build a really effective political team now, in all areas. Especially in PR, so should probably move Klein out to Counselor, and find a really good PR man. Would sure help.