



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

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Monday, October 26.

Ceausescu. Took up most of the morning, plus State Dinner tonight.

President pretty much preoccupied with political thinking the rest of the day. Especially anxious to get good readings on all the key states - House and Senate both. Had me make calls to many of the key people - all feel they are a little ahead and will win, but narrowly. Some bad reports in the news summary and that got him started. Real problem is the economy - and as all the weeklies say today, key is whether the "social issues" - crime, violence, students, etc. - overrides the "pocketbook issues", or not.

President decided not to have the columnists in for backgrounder. Doesn't have enough to say to them. Did want Klein to work on them with the line. Need to get some balance into the reporting, especially regarding why the President is campaigning. Had Chotiner and me into EOB late afternoon to review all the key states and try to see what else we can do - answer is nothing, except to get our TV out wherever we can.

Wants to find a way to tie closer to Buckley, they are pushing for it. Latest idea is to have Klein go up and endorse him on a personal basis, feel P can't do it himself. Agreed to more activity in California on Monday, per Chotiner request.

Wants to sell point that he's after ideological rebalance in Senate - not political party balance. Feels economy is a drag because we're doing right things for the long haul, but hurts now. Have laid foundation for enormous plus in '72. Usual idea is if President loses badly in off-year, he'll lose in reelection - but not true of Wilson in '14, FDR '38, HST '46, DDE '54 (he lost both Houses). All were reelected. Reason for President's battle now is not for '72, but for ideological balance now - to shift the "majority of one." Also results will affect other senators, who'll be looking ahead to '72.

President projects loss of 12-15 in House, 4 Governors (including Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania) and gain 2-3 in Senate.



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For some reason he keeps coming back to Indiana and whether we can do something to pull that one out. I think he feels guilty because he insisted on running Roudebush instead of Snyder. As it turns out, even Snyder would probably have been better.