



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

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Friday, July 14.

Connally, Kissinger, and the President met for a couple of hours this morning and then Connally, the President, and I got together again over at the President's residence up in his study, and it worked out pretty well, that Connally's obviously ready to go in taking this on. Buys the Colson move. Got into the question of mechanics to some degree but not very much. He's very anxious to get Marvin Watson in, probably, to actually run the thing for him and thinks he can do it. Which would be a real coup if we can. Agreed that he would come up to Washington next week to discuss strategy. In the meantime, I'm to get the strategy memos to him, review them, and then discuss strategy with the President next weekend.

The President raised the point that the first question is what we should do between now and the Convention. The President thinks he should just stay as President and not do any outside speaking, etcetera, and Connally completely agreed that he should look for substantive things in Washington and not go out into the country and not just do cosmetic things. Connally thinks McGovern's going to scare the country on the whole leadership question, and that we should set up the contrast just by being a leader.

We discussed the Wallace thing, and it was agreed that we've got to make the Wallace move regarding money, his future, and so forth, and that Connally should go see him, but Connally needs to know where the ball is now and wants to talk with Mitchell about it first. Colson should go to Texas and meet with Connally to get the basic plans worked out and then we'd go ahead from there.

Today we talked about the Wallace question. Mitchell reported that Dan had told him that the Wallace backers had been having fistfights in Miami. That we got the story that Tom Turnipseed and his finance man Bader had the upper hand and that they wanted to go with it, the third party on television, and Bader says he's got a reading from someone close to the President that this is what we wanted. Mitchell thinks this is a phony story, but feels that we need to move on the basis of it being possibly true. We're going to get Billy Graham to explore it, and I talked with



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Graham who agreed that he would help turn Wallace off, and he thinks that it would be a disaster for Wallace to go on a third party ticket.

End of July 14.