



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

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Sunday, August 13.

Still at Camp David. Lot of Romney flap in the paper this morning, President feels there's no need to react to it. Talked to me on the phone, wanted to see if I had heard anything from John Mitchell, and wants me to be sure to make the point to him that we're relying on him for New York, New Jersey, and Reagan, and we have to know if he's not going to be able to do it.

Wanted to be sure that Agnew stays on an attack on McGovern, not on Shriver, that he should ignore Shriver totally. McGovern and Shriver were both on TV talk shows today, and Shriver did rather badly, McGovern did pretty well, overall.

President called me at home tonight to discuss the plan for this week, he's obviously cranking into gear to get started on writing his speech, and was trying to clear up all the loose ends before he does so. We have a heavy schedule of nuts and bolts for him tomorrow morning but he wants to get away by 1:00, and get up to Camp David to go to work on the speech. Wanted me to make the point with the staff that the President now will have to button down and not get involved in anything. Says he doesn't need any secretary until Wednesday, but Rose should be on stand-by, or someone else, but then he said no, to tell Rose to plan to come up to be available Thursday morning through the weekend. Says he probably won't want Ray, he'll work by himself or maybe with someone else other than Ray, because he's too slow. Says he wants me to review the news summary, he doesn't want to read it, and about 5:00 give him a call with a rundown. He needs to know everything is handled that should be, so I should read it with a careful eye, and then he wants a report on what's going on on the campaign generally, and then anything that might relate to the speech, and eliminate trivia. He does need to know what the folks are thinking and hearing about, though. He thinks it's better not to break or be distracted during the day, but at 5:00 to take a break and get the rundown then.

Raised the point that Ehrlichman's got to understand that the O'Brien follow-up and the attack on high level Democrats is much more important than the platform, they come first. Wants the Watergate thing discussed, thinks Ehrlichman's plan which we talked about yesterday at Camp



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David is probably the best. The thought there was that we would have MacGregor come out and give the full background story right at the time of the President's meeting with Tanaka, so as to override-- be overridden, and then hope that settles our side of it prior to the issuing of indictments in mid-September.

He's going to do all his signings and vetoes and all that at Camp David. He's getting into the question of how our political coordination's going to work, and doesn't think our idea of conferring by conference call when we can't meet in one place is adequate. He's concerned about Billy Graham, wants to get his feeling on the acceptance speech from off the top of his head. Then he got back to the question of whether we have an adequate operation getting a list of McGovern supporters and contributors and running checks on them quietly to see if there are any vulnerable records—left-wing or mob connections, and that sort of thing. He thinks we should be doing this with all of McGovern's top contributors. He asked about Finch and Polefsky, wants that followed up rigorously. Thinks maybe Chotiner should run over this, examine the names, and evaluate those guys. Wanted to go back to McNamara's record in '64, in connection with the attacks on Rogers and Laird for being political. Agrees that the Vice President should go ahead with his amnesty speech and that the VFW would be a good place to give it. He keeps emphasizing that we've got to keep the opposition talking about their programs, not let them shift the issues to our programs.

End of August 13.