



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

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Monday, February 16.

First flap of the day, regarding VP school desegregation group. Rump session this morning decided to overrule decision last Saturday and set up big meeting in Atlanta tomorrow night. Finch called, strongly opposed because forces Maddox to oppose us; Harlow agrees. So I moved in on VP and Garment, and turned it off. Confirmed later with President, who agreed. Worried about Garment too much in control - is convinced the bleeding hearts are not in tune with nation - doesn't want a direct confrontation now. All signs indicate a historic turning point - away from all-out integration programs, with recognition they don't work. Great break for us, especially with court decision in LA, which is a disaster.

Then into President's concern about cabal in Cabinet of Romney, Volpe, Stans, Blount - against Shultz views on wage and price policy and emergency labor strikes. President basically with Shultz - but mainly mad because others carp but don't come up with a better idea.

Big political meeting in library - VP, Mitchell, Laird and staff. President outlined his overall approach to this year - with idea his major role is to be good President, let that build the votes. Backing off on his earlier talk about great personal campaigning efforts. But he'll still do plenty - is just scared off by over-publicizing it too early - also wants flexibility about which candidates to back. Reviewed all the Senate possibilities again, and will have another shot later, with Morton and Tower.

Agnew made big pitch for his using a new Buchanan speech, about end of desegregation movement. Wants to give it in Atlanta this week. Others all opposed in varying degrees. President agrees with Buchanan thesis but feels Atlanta the wrong place - and doesn't want VP to get out beyond his own position, and thus become oversold as the Southern strategy man. Afraid to dilute or waste the great asset he has become.



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President called me at home couple of times - wants to give Agnew some more speech help besides Pat - get him on some other issues. Also wants next political meetings better structured, with an agenda and something to accomplish.