



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

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Tuesday, July 28.

San Clemente. In late again. Budget meeting regarding Defense all morning - then a session with Shakespeare regarding Asian Embassy problems.

Disappointed at little use in papers of Reagan picture last night.

Discussion with Ehrlichman and me regarding desegregation. Has assigned me to follow up on activities of all concerned to lower the profile - make sure we are doing no more than necessary to meet what the law requires. Feels very strongly that anything we do will have adverse political effect - therefore should only do what we have to, and not brag about it.

Problem is Justice and HEW getting overzealous regarding enforcement, and many feeling we gain by getting maximum credit for what we're doing. Especially Jerry Leonard at Justice.

President says Justice and Mitchell can judge the law - but he is best judge of politics, and he's convinced we don't win anything on this. Will get no credit from the blacks and will alienate many whites. Wants to be sure we follow rule that "We're here to help, not to coerce."

Had me tell Mitchell not to open Southern offices and not to send his men down en masse - only when needed on a spot basis. Also set policy that we'll use no federal troops or Marshals to enforce - must be done by locals.

Tom Paine in to resign, is going back to General Electric. Hastily whipped up and released exchange of letters.

President back to house fairly early in afternoon - with the briefing books. Will go up to Century Plaza tomorrow evening.

Was really pleased and amused by column Buchanan did for mailings, etc., regarding remarkable Nixon survival, based on this week's Gallup poll, which has him up six points.