



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

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Sunday, August 9.

At Camp David. Ehrlichman and I had long talk, regarding desegregation, etc., which brought out Ehrlichman's feeling that President has lost confidence in him. Says he hasn't seen President alone for a month. Feels he can't go on making domestic decisions, etc., unless he knows he's doing what President wants. I said we should confront President with whole thing and get it cleared up - so we did.

In about three hour chat with President at Aspen, Ehrlichman laid his problem out quite clearly and President shot it down very well. President did lay out his concerns regarding liberal appointments to commissions, overreaction in South, etc., and air was pretty well cleared up.

President made some good basic points - we can't pick up support from radicalized partisans - glad we didn't appoint Vance, Shriver, etc., because they would have backfired. Need to re-examine all our appointments and start to play to our group, without shame or concern or apology. Should feel our way - appear to be listening to critics, but we have now learned we have gained nothing by turning to the other side. Again we have to build our own establishment. We're in a deadly battle with the establishment on many fronts: press, civil rights, education, political.

President has changed his mind, reached a new conclusion. Is convinced policy of sucking after left won't work - not only can't win them, can't even defuse them. Wants Ehrlichman to shape policies so as to move our way. President changed mind about school desegregation statement of March 24 - thinks it went too far, only agreed to some parts to keep Garment happy but can't do them now, i.e., idea of interracial experience.

Decided to try using Shultz and Weber to clean up personnel. Will put direct charge to Weber. Wants Rumsfeld to take revolutionary run at Civil Service Commission. Work up plan to go into effect December 15, to really take over government. Have to get it all done this year - build case in '71, win in '72.



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President now thinking of being less overtly political - also less direct haranguing of Congress, especially the sharp rejoinders and raising hell.

President main point - we must put our imprint on the men as well as the policies in this Administration, all the way through it.