

Haldeman's Orders

Keeping Senators in Line

Washington

In October, 1969, H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's chief of staff, ordered White House aides to organize a campaign of letters, telegrams and telephone calls to Senators Charles E. Goodell of New York, Charles Mathias Jr. of Maryland and Charles H. Percy of Illinois, all Republicans, "blasting them on their consistent opposition to the President."

At the same time, Haldeman ordered telegrams sent to former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey praising him for supporting the President.

A series of four memoranda—once conveying the order and three conveying the somewhat reluctant response of White House aides Jeb S. Magruder and Tom C. Huston—have been made available by Watergate investigative sources.

On October 11, at a time when the White House was apprehensive about massive anti-war demonstrations planned for the next week, Haldeman wrote to Magruder:

"Would you please make sure that a hundred telegrams are sent to former Vice President Humphrey commending him for his courageous stand and thanking him for supporting the

President in his statement yesterday."

Haldeman's reference was to a statement by Humphrey made after a breakfast meeting on October 10 with the President and Henry A. Kissinger, his national security adviser. Humphrey had told reporters that Mr. Nixon was "proceeding along the right path" in Vietnam.

Haldeman's memo continued:

"Also, would you get with (Lynn Noziger (former press aide to Governor Ronald Reagan) and work out having people here at the White House assigned to Goodell, Mathias and Percy. Let me know who these people are today. Each of these people will be responsible to work out a program over the next week for sending letters and telegrams and making telephone calls to the senators. Blasting them on their consistent opposition to the President on everything he is trying to do for the country. This program needs to be subtle and worked out well so that they receive these items from their home districts as well as other points around the country."

MEMO

Two days later Magruder, who pleaded guilty to ob-

structing justice in the Watergate case, sent memo to Haldeman— "Subj: Campaign re Goodell, Mathias and Percy." The original copy, made available yesterday, has Haldeman's handwritten comments, paragraph by paragraph, to be sent back to Magruder.

"On Senator Percy," Magruder wrote, "we have a group in Illinois and in other parts of the country, who are sending telegrams and letters to him criticizing him on his view, particularly on the war, but also on all the issues that he seems to disagree with the President."

Haldeman's marginal comment was: "Where are copies?"

Turning to Goodell and Mathias, Magruder wrote:

"In discussing this situation with Stan Blair (Stanley Blair had been secretary of state of Maryland under Governor Spiro T. Agnew and had come to Washington with him), he indicated that there was a meeting held in Baltimore between Mathias and some of his principal contributors. As a result of this meeting, Blair believes we are making some progress with the senator and that a campaign along the lines we have recommended would not only be unproductive but perhaps counter-offensive."

APPROACH

Haldeman's scrawled comment was "Absolutely end. The wrong approach. See me."

The Magruder memo continued:

"Goodell is also another question. Because of the active campaign for mayor in New York, it is the feeling of Tom Huston that we will not get any effective work done their (sic) until after the mayoralty election. Also, it is his feeling that we would probably have no affect (sic) on Senator Goodell because he has decided which way he is going and that our most productive activity would be attempting to remove in a primary next year. I would agree with both the Mathias and Goodell situations and think we would be better to hold our fire in these cases."

Haldeman wrote in the margin:

"What about the rest of the state? This is pure BS— as excuses. I disagree 100 per cent— and besides this was an order— not a question? & I was told it was being carried out and so informed the P (President). Now let's get it carried out— and quickly."

New York Times