



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

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Friday, July 24.

Busiest day yet. President started with busy round of activity at White House, before leaving for trip. Big bill signing for Emergency Housing; briefed Mansfield and Ford on Middle East; picture with H. Allen Smith; meeting with Ambassador Godley regarding Laos; economy meeting with Flanigan, Shultz, etc.; then Arthur Burns for long talk. Then off to the West.

Was very concerned regarding press report that FBI said Guard was at fault at Kent State. Called J. Edgar who immediately blamed it on Jerris Leonard. President told Hoover to knock it down. Is really afraid we'll end up putting Administration on the side of the students and really doesn't want that.

Some talk on the plane to Fargo. Wants to build up next Gallup poll for major ride - letters and calls ahead, a major column by Buchanan regarding remarkable survival with press opposition, etc. Also still pushing "conservative" idea for candidates.

Fargo was not too good. Mediocre crowd at airport, and some bad guys so he didn't speak. Very poor crowds along the streets (we had not built crowds because of his plan to walk down Main Street) - crowd at meeting place was barricaded way back and we had battle with Secret Service to try to get them up closer. Meeting was long and dull, and Governor Guy blasted us for trip a political maneuver. Then President decided not to do the street walking because he had done so much extra at the fence to compensate for barricades and for not speaking. All in all, not so hot.

Salt Lake was great. Street crowds very good and very enthusiastic - crowd huge in front of meeting building and President spoke from steps - some demonstrations, but not too bad. Good reception at rodeo.

On plane to California, President in good shape - very tired. A really long day. Wants to start some counteraction to demonstrations. Get our guys to rough them up - investigate influences and controls behind them, etc. Liked the rodeo, with cornball prayer (Home on Range in



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background, on the organ) all the people saluting national anthem, etc. Relaxed and generally pleased.