



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

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Sunday, August 30.

President at home again all day. Did call twice - to check in. Big stir about American Legion Convention. Don Kendall called me to say DeLoach called him and the Legion would not take Finch, and still expected President. Kendall thought President should go. Through the day I had 28 phone conversations with 14 people on this - with things still not settled. General plan is for Mitchell to go (they will take him) with possibility of President at last minute. Finch pushing hard to go himself, whether they want him or not - but President feels he should definitely not go. President is wavering - says he's inclined not to go, but then talks as if he really wants to. There's some merit to Dick Moore's view that he should go because can't lose. If no trouble, it's a great accomplishment in the face of big threat of demonstrations - if there is trouble, he'll focus attention on it, and we gain by the reaction. Price argues this is purposely planned to trigger the campuses and we should cool it, not play into it. Ehrlichman says we should not go because Governor's peculiar plan of staging rock festival to divert hippies - may backfire and is pretty weird in any event. Just have to see tomorrow.