

It may mean nothing but because it is unusual I note this: Nixon left Washington for Camp David Friday. By now, 9 a.m. Sunday, 8/5, I have heard not a single helicopter. All his recent trips, those on which he drove up too, were the occasion for varying numbers but many flights of which I was aware. If it is possible that other routes were used, this is so clear a departure and the silence from Camp David is so total, I am led to believe that he is up to one of his big projects. Reports of his going there also said he took no senior aides, who could have driven up later. They made no reference to guests, either. Nixon has arranged it so that the press now has no way of knowing who comes and goes. With Gray hinged to his earlier sworn testimony, that of Haldeman and Ehrlichman past and successful, and with the misdirection of that of the CIA people, Nixon can plot a major part of his counterattack with some safety and security because Colson will not be called before the hearings take a break. Nor will any of his operatives. It is also possible that if he can be hurt by what came from Kleindinst and Peterson this week, he may have to prepare. Both can pull his plug, but neither can with impunity. HW 8/5/73