

Laird Denies He Is Leaving

Presidential counselor Melvin R. Laird denied reports yesterday that he will quit the White House staff. "No, I'm staying. I like Washington," said the former Congressman and former Defense Secretary.

Laird made the statement as he left a meeting with House and Senate Republican leaders at which 14 bills of interest to the administration were discussed, in preparation for a leadership meeting with the President today.

Laird reportedly will hold a press conference Thursday to quell rumors that he is leaving the White House. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said, "Everybody said to Laird 'I hope you're going to be there a long time,' and he said, 'I'll stay as long as I can do some good.'"