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White House 'Bemused'

By Break-in, Finch Says

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug. 31 (AP)—Robert H. Finch, counselor to President Nixon, said today that the White House was "bemused" by the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters office.

"Not amused — bemused," Mr. Finch said at a new conference while in the California capital to campaign for President Nixon. "If I wanted information, the last place I would go is the Democratic National Committee," he said. "It was just the height of idiocy."

Mr. Finch said in reply to a question that the White House would not make any effort to delay the investigation of the incident until after the election or "to sweep it under the rug." But he said that he and other White House aides and Cabinet members were bewildered by the incident "and lack ability to understand how the thing came about."

"And so is the President," he added.