



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

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Wednesday, January 22.

The day started with the Cabinet swearing-in - in the East Room, coffee at 7:30, ceremony at 8:00. I didn't go.

Then the first Cabinet meeting, at 8:30. President told me at last minute I should attend. Plan was for me to stay out of these, but he felt I had to be there. I was called on for several administrative items near the end. President roared in right on time, announced by Chapin. Took immediate command, and started on the agenda full tilt with no nonsense. The Governors distinguished themselves by their compulsion to talk - whether or not they had anything to say. Arthur Burns started in on his policy book and implacably went on and on. Overall, excellent meeting - set a great tone.

I was in with President for an hour in the afternoon on myriad of general items, mainly details. He used the little office for a while. I don't think he liked it.

Teddy White saw him for an hour - for the final session. Then I spent another half hour getting papers signed. Our staff system is working remarkably well - the staff is in on time and usually right. Cole is doing a very fine job. Chapin has yet to get on top of his role, but he's not blowing anything.

This morning I had a fire in my fireplace - and it was a disaster! The chimney didn't draw, and smoke poured into the office. They had to break through years of accumulated paint to get my windows open. Rose furious - smoke all through the West Wing. Fortunately, I went to the Cabinet meeting and missed it all.

Pat Buchanan had his first meeting with President this afternoon - and discovered when he left after an hour session regarding press and TV briefings that his fly was open.