



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

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Monday, January 27.

The first press conference. Staff group met at 7:30 in Cabinet Room (Buchanan arrived late - and then sat in the President's chair). I presided. Two hours of discussion - developed an opening statement (which he did not use) and added seven or eight Q&A's to the book. Small group (Ehrlichman, Harlow, Keogh and Kissinger) met with President at 9:30. Supposed to be a half hour but they stayed until time for press conference.

President very tense at opening, but loosened up and did great job. Excellent reaction from all sides.

President changed his schedule and went early to the Pentagon - had lunch with Laird before briefing. We had a schedule meeting, lunch in the Fish Room.

Formal call by Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Sevilla-Sacassa. His entrance was hysterical. Stood at rigid attention in doorway of Oval Office, clicked his heels, boomed out "Mr. President" then went rigid again, with all chins trembling. Stood that way until President moved forward and broke the spell. Then came in with big abrazo.

Long discussion regarding Europe trip plans. President feels must go early before Vietnam problems set in and Paris talks bog down. Issued order that President Frei of Chile must not be first Latin American visitor.

Didn't like the picture of himself that's all over the Defense Department. Too severe.

Pushing for action - wants a barrage of messages to Congress, one a day for 20 days. Wants a plan of what we'll be doing. Wants decision on whether to give State of Union or not. Advisors divided.

Wants people meeting with him to bring their staff people in with them when appropriate. Wants Chapin to send the girls in with messages, etc. - so he sees more people on the staff more often.



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Still loves every minute - and shows it all the time.

Brought the new dog in for a preview visit. President pretty awkward about how to handle him - basically embarrassed.