

August 9, 1974 - There is no way to really describe the emotion of the day. Bar and I went down and had breakfast at the White House. Dean and Pat Burch and the Buchanans were there in the Conference Mess. There was an aura of sadness, like somebody die . Grief. Saw Tricia and Eddie Cox in the Rose Garden - talked to them on the way into the ceremony. President Nixon looked just awful. He used glasses - the first time I ever saw them. Close to breaking down - understandably. Everyone in the room in tears. The speech was vintage Nixon - a kick or two at the press - enormous strains. One couldn't help but look at the family and the whole thing and think of his accomplishments and then think of the shame and wonder what kind of a man is this really. No morality - kicking his friends in those tapes - all of them. Gratuitous abuse. Caring for no one and yet doing so much. When he used the word 'plumbers' meaning it 'laboring with his hands' the connotation was a shock on me. I remember Lt. Col. Brennan who has been with him so long - Marine - standing proudly but with tears running down his face. Rabbi Korff, a brand new friend on the scene who told Kendall he wanted to start a Support for Ford Committee. Thrilled with the limelight. Coming in and standing around and looking for special attention, ending up sitting next to the Cabinet. People who labored next to Nixon's side forever are not invited. It's weird. The Nixon speech was masterful. In spite of his inability to totally resist a dig at the press, that argument about hating - only if you hate do you join the haters. We walked through the bottom lobby to go out. After the Ford swearing-in many of the pictures were changed with a great emphasis on the new President. We went over and hung around waiting for the swearing in of Ford.

And then the whole mood changed. It was quiet, respectful, sorrowful in one sense, but upbeat. The music and the band seemed cheerier, the talking and babbling of voices after Ford's fantastic speech, crowds of friends, indeed a new spirit, a new lift. I walked through the line and the President was warm and friendly, kissing the wives, telling Bar he appreciated my job, and on and on. It was much more relaxed. There of course were a lot of people that didn't know what they were going to do. There was great turmoil in that sense.

I went back to the National Committee and addressed them. I tried to identify with the feelings I am sure they all felt - of betrayal and distrust and yet pride. I told them we had been through the toughest year and a half in history and yet I now felt we were coming on an optimistic period. I told them that the President asked me to stay on. All in all it was a pretty good meeting although I felt drained emotionally and physically tired.

Saturday the 10th I attended the first Ford Cabinet Meeting. Notes kept on that. Mood calm. TerHorst had already called the day before to ask about the White House report - I told him what he could expect, he told me the Clawson job would be eliminated, that Clawson was going to be leaving, that the whole gut-fighting attack group would be eliminated. I told him this was a great decision and I was relieved. I had a long visit with Haig after the press had left following the swearing in during which Kissinger walked into the room. Bar and Pat Haig were talking and Haig and I were fielding various things. I told Haig my concerns about the NSC, how it had to be a more independent posture eventually. I recognized Kissinger's enormous ego problem but that the system needed to be somewhere between where the NSC used to be when he was there and ambassadors were walking in the side door and where it is now, simply a subsidiary to the

Secretary of State. It is essential that the President get objective recommendations, recognizing Defense's needs and recognizing State's needs. I told Ford a day or two before that he needed to get his own imprint clearly on foreign policy but that he had to have Kissinger stay. I noticed on the evening news of the 10th much more news about Kissinger and what he was going and saying in terms of what the ambassadors said. Haig told me that Kissinger had wanted to leave a time or two but it's my view that Ford ought to get positioned for the inevitable day when Kissinger does leave. I would like to see Haig go into the NSC job - have it built up, give it visibility and then perhaps he can move into the Secretary of State position, even though a military man.

The rest of the day was swirling around on the Vice Presidential speculation. We got our telegrams out asking for input from the National Committee. Clements talking to Jack Marsh on my behalf. Jerry Pettis working on it, a lot of speculation. Timmons called to say the President wanted to talk to me about this matter at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Lunch with Dick Moore. Tennis with Dick Williams. Quiet evening. Suspense mounting again. Deep down inside I think maybe it should work this time. I have that inner feeling that it will finally abort. I sure hope not. Another defeat in this line is going to be tough but then again it is awful egotistical to think I should be selected.