

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1954

Returned on sleeper from New York at 7:15 - In at White House at 7:30.

Went in with Bryce Harlow to report to the President on my visit with radio and television presidents in New York. I reported my conversations to him, and he readily agreed on suggestion for opening overall speech on need for program in front of an audience so that he could get good reaction on radio and television to points he would be making. Discussed briefly possibility of appearing before Joint Session of Congress, but the President was opposed to this idea. Later, Knowland also rejected this idea as did everyone on reflection -- It may be necessary for the President to address a Joint Session on Indo-China or other fast-breaking developments in the international field before Session adjourns.

The President thought well of the idea of making address before Citizen group, and I had Jim Murphy come down early in the morning to discuss it with me. Murphy enthusiastic about it, of course -- "This is what we have been waiting for, and it will give our Citizens an opportunity to start a real nationwide campaign in support of the President's program." Originally planned to have speech made Friday night but changed it to Thursday for two reasons -- (1) At this time of the year at the beginning of summer Friday night is a bad reception night, and (2) President was eager to do it and get it started as soon as possible.

Had luncheon with the President and Adams, Persons, Snyder, Montgomery, Harlow, Morgan and discussed outline of speech. President said that he wanted to talk about what he had proposed in the State of the Union Message; what had been passed so far; and what must be passed for the welfare of the country before Congress adjourns. At the luncheon we also decided to use the speech as a start in a personal campaign by the President to bring the program directly to the attention of the people. Will follow it up with talks by Cabinet members and frequent talks by the President.

In addition, we also discussed two other important upcoming news stories:

1. McCarthy's Threat to Investigate CIA -- The President was going to call a bi-partisan meeting of the Congressional leaders on Monday morning and present to them the reasons why it is impossible for any individual or group outside of the administrative branch to investigate our intelligence organization. Since charges have been made by McCarthy, the President is going to appoint a Presidential Commission to look into McCarthy's charges -- but the main point which should be made forcibly is that we can have no Intelligence if we have it constantly subjected to investigation by members of Congress.

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We will present the leaders with a copy of a letter from the President and a letter to the President from Allen Dulles. Both these letters will strongly cite the reasons for refusing Congressional investigation and we hope they will be endorsed 100 percent by both the Republican and Democrat leaders attending the meeting. Of course, this will be a first-class story and will be a move by the entire leadership of the Congress against McCarthy.

The President expressed the hope that McCarthy would sound off once again on his threat to investigate the CIA prior to the meeting on Monday -- "My boys, I am convinced of one thing. The more we can get McCarthy threatening to investigate our Intelligence, the more public support we are going to get. If there is any way I could trick him into renewing his threat, I would be very happy to do so and then let him have it."

2. Moreland Act Commission -- The President told us that he had asked the Attorney General to study the proposal submitted to him last week by Governor Dewey for the establishment of a Moreland Act type Commission for the Federal Government. Seventeen states now have this, and as the President put it, it would in effect establish the right of the President to have an Inspector General for every department of our administrative government. "If there is any wrongdoing, I could appoint a Commission or Commissioner to investigate and clean up the matter fast."

Expect to get considerable Congressional opposition to this move but think that it should be done dramatically and forcefully as soon as McCarthy-Army hearings are completed. When Morgan and Persons expressed some concern over Congressional reaction, the President interrupted them by saying, "They may be against it but how can they make a case for their point of view? I would think that I would have a perfect right to have the power to immediately investigate within the administrative branch of this government any charges of misdoing or malfeasance of office made by anyone, particularly a Senator." The President also said that he was sure this would be construed as another act by the Administration to curtail McCarthy's power. He said he was ready to face that and fight it through.

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Called Julian Goodman in in the afternoon and made official request for time on all networks Thursday evening, 9:30 to 10:00, for Citizens. Goodman expressed some concern over the form we had chosen -- namely, the Citizens, a political organization. He was afraid the networks would argue that the Democrats could ask for equal time if they wanted to, and the networks would be forced to give it to them. I told him I was aware of that concern and we would try to make the speech as non-partisan as possible. All we would do is outline the need for the Eisenhower Program. Julian laughed and said, "Is that your idea of being non-partisan?" With a perfectly straight face I told him that it was. He will report back to me tomorrow at noon.

Knowland was in to visit the President off-the-record early this morning. He was joined by Allen Dulles and all three went over the McCarthy threat against the CIA. Knowland feels sure that he can get united bi-partisan support on the Hill against McCarthy on this one.