The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

November 27, 1953 (Friday)

1. Reprise in Foster's office. Some ground gained, some lost. Ground gained in that Foster made smart proposal on atomic section; ground lost in that Kyes, Radford had crystallized their negative approach. Through all of this, Lewis Strauss only real ally.

   Broke up on note that I would re-do last section in line with Foster's suggestion, would report by phone to the President, and would try to get what may be showdown session when President returns.

   Real problem is very deep and goes beyond any disagreement on wording or technical details. Real problem is basic philosophy -- are we or are we not prepared to embark on a course which may in fact lead to atomic disarmament? Soldier boys and their civilian governesses say no. Foster Dulles doesn't say yes or no, but says any atomic offer which does not recognize ultimate possibility is a phoney and should not be made. Strauss and I say we won't be out of the trenches by Christmas, or next Christmas or the next one, but let's try to make a start and see what happens. Foster considers this mentally dishonest (he should talk!)

   Russian note has further complicated matters. I maintain all the more reason for moving ahead on all fronts, hard, as Russian note indicates retreat from previous positions. Even if clever retreat designed to influence French elections, nevertheless retreat. And our diplomacy should get over its congenital timidity whenever Russians suggest a meeting.

   Told Bowie after meeting that entirely aside from my job, as an American I refused to admit or accept that our diplomacy was not adequate to sit down with Russians and do them in the eye for a change.

2. Folliard of Post -- on Julius Amos series, and asking me about McCarthy. Told him not my department.

Tuesday night McCarthy made sensational radio and television talk. My impression was aside from open season on lambasting Truman, that McCarthy had (a) declared war on Eisenhower; (b) by subtle innuendo had accused Eisenhower of the same thing that Brownell had accused Truman of; (c) had attempted to establish McCarthy as Mr. Republican; (d) had attempted to establish McCarthyism as Republicanism, and anybody who didn't agree was either a fool or a protector of Communism.