Thursday, February 25, 1954

In at 8 30 Stevens-McCarthy now really kicked up a mess - Staff meeting broke early so Adams, self, Persons, Martin, Morgan could have meeting with Nixon and Bill Rogers - later moved meeting to East Wing where Sen. Dirksen joined us = piecing together yesterday's [mess?] seems that the Senators really [jobbed?] up on Stevens, or else he didn't realize what he was doing = may have good results in long run, however

Dirksen agreed to get Rep. members of committee together and see if they could issue additional statement saying committee had complete confidence in Stevens "integrity and ability." (2) that he was pursuing proper course of action in dealing with problems arising from Peress case (3) action to be taken by Stevens after completion of Inspector General's report made it evident may not be necessary to call any officers involved and (4) if called, would be treated with "proper respect."

Also Dirksen will work on Rep. members and Dems on committee to get Cohen [sic] fired, to stop one-man committee from meeting and to strip McCarthy of some of his powers by saying subpoena could be issued only by majority vote. - Dirksen couldn't deliver

Pres. very mad and getting fed up - it's his Army and he doesn't like McCarthy's tactics at all = Stevens and Kyes joined Nixon and all of us at 4 P.M = worked 'til 5:30 on statement = cleared it with Pres. who made it stronger and then released it in joint conference in my office

Quotes - Ike on subject: "This guy McCarthy is going to get into trouble over this. I'm not going to take this one lying down" - "my friends tell me it won't be long in this Army stuff before McCarthy starts using my name instead of Stevens. He's ambitious. He wants to be President. He's the last guy in the world who'll ever get there, if I have anything to say."

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