



FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1954 (Cont'd)

The President then asked if it would not be possible to feed a speech to Senator Potter to be delivered on the floor of the Senate on this subject. I countered with the suggestion that maybe the best way to do would be to build up public opinion first. The President thought that was a good idea and after discussion we decided that it would be best for me on my own to call certain key people that I knew in radio, television and the newspapers to get this point of view over. I did that in the afternoon. The President also told me that I should do this on my own and should not let anyone even in the White House know what I was doing. Later in the afternoon while he was hitting golf balls on the back lawn I reported that I had accomplished my mission and suggested that he listen particularly to Ed Murrow's program at 7:45 tonight. He is going to the Ethiopian dinner this evening but will try to listen to Murrow before leaving. This is a fundamental fight and one which I am sure we can win, but one to which I am also sure we will have to give a lot of attention to see that our point of view is accurately reflected in radio, television and the papers throughout the country.

Talked to Lewis Strauss four or five times during the day on Oppenheimer case. The situation is this: The panel on Oppenheimer has completed its report of 39 or 40 pages and sent it to the Atomic Energy Commission general manager. By a vote of two to one the panel is in favor of restricting Oppenheimer's clearances. Under the procedure of the Atomic Energy Commission Oppenheimer must be notified of the decision of the panel and has five days to appeal. If he does appeal, a new board must be constituted, cleared by the FBI and all the others to hear that appeal. Lewis is afraid that the panel decision will leak or that Oppenheimer will give it out in part. The panel insists that its report be made public in its entirety and Strauss has grave doubts as to the wisdom of sitting on it. Strauss is having trouble with the Democratic members of the Commission, particularly Murray, and when he gives it to the Commission, they will probably leak it anyway. Strauss and I will see the President tomorrow morning on this matter.

The President held a secret meeting this morning for an hour and a half with Dulles, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Doug MacArthur, and Bowie. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss in advance the American position at the military conference starting in Washington.