

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.

( Cont'd)