

Wednesday, March 10, 1954

In at 8 AM - Press Conference briefing at staff meeting - Topics included announcement of tax TV-Radio talk; [Caracas?], Tax program, Stevenson speech, McCarthy on his books at Army libraries, Indo-China, Senate Rules, Hawaii, Pay Raises, etc = goe at Pres. briefing decided to go on air with tax speech Monday night, and to announce it at conference - as to Stevenson agreed only to say "nonsense" to his charge GOP half-Eisenhower, half-McCarthy -

Good conference - Pres. tough on Joe and backed up Flanders and networks - authorized "nonsense," saying "you can use my influence on Mr. H to get him to release it = also released about 7 minutes of Q & A on McCarthy, Stevenson and Indo-China - Pres in fighting mood, has had it as far as Joe is concerned = "if he wants to get recognized anymore," Pres told Persons, "only way he can do it is to stand up and publicly say: "I was wrong in browbeating witnesses, wrong in saying the Army is coddling Communists, and wrong in my attack on Stevens. I apologize" - that's only way I ever welcome him back into fold."

C.E. Wilson threw monkeywrench in carefully prepared plans by sending his car to Senate today and picking up Joe for luncheon at Pentagon - Wilson didn't tell anyone in W.H. about luncheon - just let it happen - When I told Pres. he leaned back in chair, muttered a few "goddams" and then said "You know, Jim, I believe Cabot Lodge is dead right when he says we need acute politicians in those positions. They are the only ones who know enough to stay out of traps - the only ones who can play the same kind of game as those guys on the Hill" = Pres. greatly disturbed at Wilson luncheon and called me back several times to see if any announcement had been made from luncheon - "if they are cooking up another statement, then, by God someone is going to hear from me - but good."

When Wilson-McCarthy interview finally broke on ticket [sic] - in which Joe pulled in his horns - Pres read story and then said: "Just a lot of words. No use to have that luncheon at all."

Pres. going to Sulgrave Club for dinner for Knowland & Ferguson - Asked who was calling for him, he was told Millikin and Saltonstall - laughed and said "Looks like they want me to at least start out being seen with the Liberals" - of Knowland: "I use to think he was a good candidate for President - now I know he isn't"

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