

Monday, March 8, 1954

In at 8¹⁵ AM - Leaders meeting - Knowland, Millikin, Saltonstall, Ferguson, Gordon, H. Butler = Speaker Halleck, Ahrends [sic], Dan Reed, Allen - Sec. Humphrey, Under-Sec. True Morse = staff = Agenda (1) Taxes (2) Hawaii (3) Freight Absorption Bill (4) Dairy Support Prices

(1) Humphreys led off on taxes - asked for Congressional schedule - "how to keep from being trapped on \$100 exemption to receive taxes" = Halleck said plans were to first - on Wed - bring up April 1st excise tax bill, then next week - Wed - bring up general revision and 52% corporate tax - "two package deal" - reported 21 Rep. Congressmen for increase of exemption - would work on them - assailed "financial irresponsibility" of opposition said GOP would hold caucus tomorrow = Millikin worried of Senate passing exemption bill, wouldn't say "yes" or "no" on whether could stop it. promised to do everything possible to get plan through

(2) Hawaii - Knowland to move on Hawaii as separate bill, but fears Alaska might be tied to it = Butler regretted close vote with 3 or 4 GOP off line = Pres reiterated "mistake to make [military?] outpost a state" = Knowland to make strong fight, with promise to take Alaska later. Millikin said "Alaska can't become tin cup state"

(3) on Freight absorption - Justice and Shanley to continue to work on it

(4) Dairy price supports - Morse said people should be told [butter?] market dropping - need to dispose of surpluses in store houses - goes rancid in 18 months - Pres said "my little daughter-in-law told me she wasn't using butter anymore - using oleo margarine" - Morse reported per capita use of butter drop from 16 lbs to 8 lbs - need to encourage use of fluid milk consumption

After meeting Pres. called leaders into his office and laid down the law - said "let's stop this nonsense and get down to getting program passed" - arrange to have Hall make request to NBC & CBS to answer with party spokesman - not McCarthy who made request for time - leaders all promised to be with Pres

On request for time. Hall issued statement that he would designate spokesmen, not "individual," to speak for party - going to be Nixon - Pres. wants it to be billed not as rebuttal but talk on "Republican leadership" - Pres. deadset against stopping McCarthy - calls him "pimple on path of progress" - Ike really made up his mind to fight Joe from now on in - all to good.

Shanley and I talked to Pres. in gym - as he was changing clothes to go out on lawn to hit golf balls = it was agreed that I should sort of leak story on McCarthy action tomorrow. pointing out Pres. press conference statement, McLeod answer, and Hall action taken with W.H. & Leaders agreement. - Pres. wants Nixon remarks to be not answer to Adlai - but talk on GOP Leadership and party program -