The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

83rd Day

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1954

282 Days to come

In at 8 AM - Had better argument with Perrow on Pres. up-coming comment on McCarthy at Press Conference - Jerry better at taking any stand on question of whether Joe should stay or not stay on committee, or whether have right to Cross-examine witnesses - contended it was matter for Senate and Pres should not "get into it" - Jerry so mad he didn't come to staff meeting but his argument taken up by Morgan, Martin and Gunnether - C.D., Cutler and I, Murray, argued Pres. was also moral leader and would get murdered if didn't express himself on question - I didn't argue too much because I knew how Pres. felt - at Pres. briefing Cutler came in with Murray & I, also Perrow, Morgan and Martin - Pres. stopped them dead in tracks by saying "Look, I know exactly what I am going to say. I'm going to say he can't sit as a judge and that the leadership can duck that responsibility. I've made up my mind you can't do business with Joe and to hell with any attempt to compromise." Other items at briefing included Indo-China; H. bomb on top fisherman; NATO commitments; Randall report; Morton as index for gov emergency programs for unemployment; Taxes, et al.

On way over to conference Pres. laughed and said "The two Jerrys didn't look very happy this morning". When I ducked this, he said "I know, Jim, Lasten, I'm not going to compromise my ideals and personal beliefs for a few stinky votes. To hell with it" - I told him "Mr. Pres. I'm proud of you."

Did reaction good on press conference - also good reaction from Ken Hall who was in at 9 to recommend Pres. praise House for their vote on tax bill - Pres. did

Senate cut excise taxes to 5% - lot of our boys went over to Dems. - yellow and couldn't stand heat like the House did - no guts in Senate leadership - How Halleck stands out.