

May 25, 1959.

Dear Milton:

Again this morning I read over the memorandum that records the thinking of the group that gathered at your house on the twenty-second.

I think that the next thing to do is to have a committee of my staff agree tentatively on such details as location, length, and stage management. Such a committee would, of course, have to obtain advice, in particular instances, of representatives from the various departments. For example, I note that five or six of the talks suggested lean heavily toward the foreign field; obviously, a trusted State Department representative should be heard.

Number 7 deals with the subject of the American economy. This is a vast subject; indeed, I have the feeling that the subject of the American economy, like that of foreign affairs, should flavor every single talk that is delivered formally or informally by one in my position. These two subjects cannot be separated from each other and certainly they cannot be ignored in considering any matter of vital importance to our people, no matter what the composition of a particular audience. In addition to #7, I think another talk on the whole economy may have to be scheduled.

As to #4, I am impressed, as I told you last evening, with the importance of getting our people to understand that local affairs have a definite relationship to foreign affairs. Local papers in our country normally show no interest in the important incidents in Iran, in Moscow, or in Japan -- even though these clearly affect the interests of the locality in which the paper is published.



Under the general subject of education, I think this talk might be dedicated to the need for understanding the simple relationships I have just mentioned. When foreign news becomes local news, then our public will be much better equipped to deal with the critical issues of our time.

As to #13, I have, as yet, no fixed idea that I should deliver a so-called "farewell" talk to the Congress, even if that body should invite me to do so. The reason I have been toying with this idea is because of my experience -- which by that time will have extended to a full six years -- in working with a Congress controlled by the opposite political party.

Needless to say, there would be no profit in expressing, in such a setting, anything that was partisan in character. Rather I think the purpose would be to emphasize a few home-ly truths that apply to the responsibilities and duties of a government that must be responsive to the will of majorities, even when the decisions of those majorities create apparent paradoxes. A collateral purpose would be, of course, merely to say an official "goodbye."

Finally, I am somewhat disturbed by the number of talks that the committee considered a bare minimum. I hasten to say that I do not disagree with its conclusion; I mean rather that the burdens implied are not inconsiderable. For example, the mere going to and returning from a place like Brown, Harvard, Kansas City and so on, normally involves motorcades, a meeting with dignitaries, and similar activities. The actual delivery of a talk is the least tiring of all the chores involved. On top of this, of course, is the matter of preparation of talks. I have a feeling, in order to get some variety in approach and expression, that each of these might be farmed out to some particular section of the government. It seems to me that this might be done by first deciding, with my immediate staff, on the specific part of the general subject that is to be developed and emphasized.



Thereafter, the basic directive could be sent to the appropriate section for production of raw material -- fact, argument and conclusion -- and thereafter Malcolm, assisted by other staff officers, should begin the process of coordination and polishing. At a fairly early stage each talk should be brought to me both for study and decision. I may be temperamental about these matters, but I can never be happy with a talk that in the long run is not developed according to my ideas and not put in my own words.

All the above remarks reflect my immediate reaction. I shall call Malcolm in to talk over these matters and if possible get the ball to rolling. If this system should work out fairly well, I shall be seeing you from time to time for conferences in which we could either talk together, alone, or have with us others that we trust.

With warm regard,

As ever,

Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower,
President,
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Baltimore, Maryland.

