

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1954



In at 8:00 A.M.

The first order of business was the President signing the St. Lawrence Seaway bill in ceremony held in conference room. Sound cameras on hand, and ceremony went off very well. Ferguson, Wiley and Dondero especially pleased as was Representative Kilburn from New York who was invited and who got a pen.

After St. Lawrence ceremony President asked Knowland to step into his office for a while and laid down the law to him on the program. Flatly warned Knowland that unless Senate stepped up and started to pass the program more rapidly, the President would go on the air and make his own fight for it. Knowland promised to try to get speed-up in Senate but pointed out that Democrats were engaging in deliberate slowdown. President said that if he has to go on the air he will "take care of that" -- Later in day had a long talk with Gerry Persons, and we decided to recommend that the President wait until the end of May to see what progress the Senate is making. If not sufficient, then Gerry and I will recommend to the President that he take off the gloves and really go out and bang the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats on the Hill.

Attended part of NSC meeting for discussion of:

1. Proposal by Interdepartmental Commission (Treasury, Post Office, Commerce, CIA, Justice) that the Administration seek a bill which would curtail the dissemination within our country of Communist literature from abroad - Brownell outlined problem - Explained that Communist literature was coming into this country in increasing volume. President said that he was doubtful that a bill could do it - "It would be misunderstood and written that the Administration was trying to impose censorship" - After some discussion it was decided to do nothing about this at the time in the form of legislation. Instead it was left in the hands of the Post Office Department. Summerfield explained that his men, working in close touch with Customs were keeping very close count of this material moving through the mails and that "you'd be surprised how much of the stuff gets lost and ends up in the dead letter office." The President approved this plan and the matter was dropped for the time being.

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1954 (Cont'd)



2. Bobby Cutler then brought up a suggested statement by the President re-emphasizing the need for the citizens of this country to report to the FBI any spying in this country. Brownell explained it was necessary because some Democratic Senators had been trying to play politics with McCarthy matter and William Fulbright had issued a statement saying he was urging the people not to report to the FBI because they were passing stuff on to McCarthy -- That charge, of course, is false. The President thought the best way to handle it would be to have question raised at next press conference, and I will arrange that.

Had several discussions during the day with President and Adams on Counsellor Adams' testimony at hearing in which he mentioned Governor Adams, Lodge, Morgan, Rogers and Brownell as participating in a conference with him and urging him to put down on paper Cohn-Carr-McCarthy threats against Army -- Daily Mirror carried story quoting McCarthy that he was going to subpoena White House Personnel - Official stand here through my office is "No Comment." Attorney General is readying a decision that White House personnel in advisory position to the President cannot testify before Congressional committees - President feels very strongly and said "This is one we will fight out right up and down the line." In conference with Governor Adams and myself President said that it might be necessary to send one White House man, probably Adams, before Committee to give his name, his title and then refuse to answer all questions under Presidential order to prove our point -- that he was acting in a confidential capacity to the President. He would say that he is under Presidential directive not to answer and let the chips fall where they may. Another alternative is that the Attorney General appear and explain the same position. McCarthy, ofcourse, may be bluffing but if attempt is made to subpoena White House personnel, we will fight it.

In meeting with Brownell, discussed request he has from Mundt and McClellan on whether any criminal violation has occurred in Army officer giving McCarthy classified information. Brownell is of the opinion that such violation has occurred, but after discussion we are not going to take full step at this time. Brownell first to answer letter from Mundt and McClellan by saying he will study the entire matter further. Eventually, however, we will have to press violation charges and bring them before the Grand Jury. Then if the Grand Jury wants McCarthy to appear before them, the Senate will have to pass a resolution so directing and order McCarthy to appear and waive immunity. This is going to cause quite a furor, but we will handle it when the time comes.