

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1954 (Cont'd)



At briefing with the President he decided not to get into Geneva Conference situation but to support strongly Dulles and stress vital significance of Indo-China -- Not to be written off and hope that the Associated States would ask to be cut into collective action - President was eager to answer the question on what he thought of Army officers giving classified material to Senator, and Murray planted question with Johnny Cutter.

President getting pretty sick and tired of McCarthy, and I am sure one of these days he is going to sound off - Also disagreed violently with Persons when Persons said Stevens made a mistake that hearing go on - "I think Stevens did exactly right. Here he has been on the stand for 13 days and if his plan had been successful the other witnesses, except McCarthy, would have been testifying behind closed doors. McCarthy would then be at liberty to come out of the hearings and tell reporters anything he wanted even though they had transcript. He would have forum while Army would not. Anyway I'm glad the Army is fighting him right down the line."

Later in the day Adams in testimony mentioned the fact that he had conferred with Brownell, Rogers, Governor Adams, Gerry Morgan, and that Governor Adams had told him to prepare a memorandum on case. Believe this to be opening of White House action in case and probably have to face question soon as to whether we will stand for subpoena before Committee of White House personnel. President is opposed and will probably not permit it.

Knowland butchered presentation of 91 State Department briefings on bi-partisan basis. Attached to speech on the floor yesterday and it got no play - He should have built it up with an announcement that he was going to do this and then waited a day at least. We tried to pick up the pieces at our press conference by pointing out that no one had published the 91 cases of bi-partisan meetings, and I think it probably did some good.