Monday, March 8, 1954

In at 8 15 AM - Leaders meeting - Knowland, Millikin, Saltonstall, Ferguson, Gordon, H. Butler = Speaker Halleck, Ahrons [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 olo 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 -
Monday, March 8, 1954

67th Day

296 Days to come

Headquarters

Met with commanders, directors, and subordinates at the Crystal Palace. Discussed the current situation and future plans. Signed documents and issued orders.

After meeting, visited the nearby park and enjoyed a leisurely walk along the river. Signed a petition for a new park conservation area.