

Thursday, February 25, 1954

In at 8 ³⁰ Stevens-McCarthy now really kicked up a mess - Staff meeting broke early so Adams, self, Persons, Martin, Morgan could have meeting with Nixon and Bill Rogers - later moved meeting to East Wing where Sen. Dirksen joined us = piecing together yesterday's [mess?] seems that the Senators really [jobbed?] up on Stevens, or else he didn't realize what he was doing = may have good results in long run, however

Dirksen agreed to get Rep. members of committee together and see if they could issue additional statement saying committee had complete confidence in Stevens "integrity and ability." (2) that he was pursuing proper course of action in dealing with problems arising from Peress case (3) action to be taken by Stevens after completion of Inspector General's report made it evident may not be necessary to call any officers involved and (4) if called, would be treated with "proper respect."

Also Dirksen will work on Rep. members and Dems on committee to get Cohen [sic] fired, to stop one-man committee from meeting and to strip McCarthy of some of his powers by saying subpoena could be issued only by majority vote. - Dirksen couldn't deliver

Pres. very mad and getting fed up - it's his Army and he doesn't like McCarthy's tactics at all = Stevens and Kyes joined Nixon and all of us at 4 P.M = worked 'til 5:30 on statement = cleared it with Pres. who made it stronger and then released it in joint conference in my office

Quotes - Ike on subject: "This guy McCarthy is going to get into trouble over this. I'm not going to take this one lying down" - "my friends tell me it won't be long in this Army stuff before McCarthy starts using my name instead of Stevens. He's ambitious. He wants to be President. He's the last guy in the world who'll ever get there, if I have anything to say."

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1954

56th
Day

309 Days
to come

In at 8³⁰ - Steiner - McCarthy now ready, Richard says -
Steffens, too early so Colson, only Steiner, Martin, Wagon
could have meeting with them and tell Rogers - later would
meeting to East Wing where Sen. Doberman joined us = pricing together
yes, today's news seems that the Senator really jolted up on
Steiner, as he didn't realize what he was doing = may have
good results in long run, however

Doberman agreed to get Rep. members of Committee together
and see if they could voice additional statement saying Committee
had complete confidence in Steiner's integrity and ability. (2) that he
was pursuing proper course of action in dealing with problems arising from
Rogers case (3) action to be taken by Steiner after completion of Inspector
General's report made it evident & may not be necessary to call any
officers involved and (4) if called, would be treated with "proper respect".

Also Doberman will work on Rep. members and down on committee
to get them fixed, to stop one-run committee from meeting and
to strip McCarthy of some of his powers by saying subpoena could
be issued only by majority vote. - Doberman couldn't deliver

Pres. very mad and getting feier - it's his house and
he doesn't like McCarthy's tactics at all - Steiner and Rogers
joined him and all four at 4 PM - worked to 5:30 on statement -
cleared it with Pres. who made it stronger and then read it in
front of press in my office

Doberman - the on subject: "This guy McCarthy is going to get into trouble
over this. I'm not going to take this one lying down" - "My private feeling
I would be long in this Army stuff before McCarthy, a half way my name
instead of Steiner. His ambition. He wants to be President. That's the last
guy in the world who'd ever get there, if I have anything to say".