



Cover, Dwight D. Eisenhower's Desk Diary, 1953

Buy to Remember



Desk Diary

1953

Saturday, January 3

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Sunday, January 4

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Monday, January 5

① Talks with Senators Butler, Watkins, Cordow and Knowland on subject of government of Hawaii. Matter of building a good, sound and progressive party that can win election when statehood comes.

② Officers of National Student Association called to show seriousness of situation, present and future.

③ Charles H. H. Jr. to be Rep. Port. Term.

④ Going to visit Winston at Baruch apt at 5:00

Tuesday, January 6

The 4 senators round above favor something over a man named Crossley. The real fact is that no one should be applied to political office if he is seeking after it. We can afford to have only those people in high political offices who cannot afford to take them. Patronage is almost a wicked word - by itself it could well right defeat democracy!

Wednesday, January 7

9 Mr. John Williams spent
10 a considerable time with me -
11 staying for lunch with other
12 guests including Senor Montero
1 of Mexico and Senor Diego.
2 Williams, I consider is a
3 wise and devoted citizen. His
4 advice in the fields of
5 foreign policy - economic
6 outlook - administration of
7 citizens' price controls, etc.
8 at 5:00 p.m. I go to find out with Arnold

Thursday, January 8

9 One year ago, yesterday, I
10 publicly stated - in Paris, France -
11 that I was a Republican. Plenity
12 has happened to me as a result!



Friday, January 9



Saturday, January 10

Sunday, January 11

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Monday, January 12

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Tuesday, January 13

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Wednesday, January 14

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Thursday, January 15

9 U.S. Problems, caused by potential
10 enemies and by others over whom we
11 have no control or, worse, serious
12 and even control. But the pity is
13 that these are exaggerated, or limited
14 and money for their solution is
15 lessened, by intense local differences
16 that frequently reflect only
17 narrow-mindedness, prejudice, or
18 selfishness. We need studies, segregation
19 in Washington, bitterness of EIO because
20 Durkin made the mistake of pushing
21 another A.F.L. man as his principal agent -

Friday, January 16

9 For some weeks I have been
10 devoting hurried moments to
11 preparing a formal address
12 address - "next Tuesday!"
13 I want to make it a high-level
14 talk. By this I mean I want to
15 appeal to the speaking quality
16 of free men more than I want to
17 discuss the material aspects of
18 the current world situation.
19 Best how to do it without
20 becoming too sermon-like -

Saturday, January 17

9 how to give it specific application
10 and concrete substance has
11 somewhat defied me. My assistant
12 has been no help - he is more
13 enamored with words than with
14 ideas! I don't care much about
15 the words if I can convey the
16 idea accurately. I want to
17 use the few words that the
18 American will can hear dry -
19 but I don't want to discourage
20 any. Almost all I don't want
21 to give the Soviets the idea
22 they ~~are~~ have us on the news! I want
23 to tell the American people that
24 internally we are entering
25 Sunday, January 18

9 a new phase - but I don't
10 want to be using the
11 marginal address to
12 analyze & indict the
13 administration of the past
14 20 years. It's a job!



Monday, January 19

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Tuesday, January 20

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Wednesday, January 21

9 My first day at the
10 President's Desk. Plenty
11 of issues and different
12 problems. But such has
1 been my pattern for a long
2 time — the result is that
3 this just seems (today)
4 like a continuation of what
5 has been doing since
July '41 — even before that!

Thursday, January 22

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Friday, January 23

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Saturday, January 24

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Sunday, January 25

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Monday, January 26

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Tuesday, January 27

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Wednesday, January 28

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Thursday, January 29

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Friday, January 30

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Saturday, January 31

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Sunday, February 1

Mavis & I joined a Presbyterian Church. We were scarcely home before the fact was being publicized, by the Post, to the limit. I had been promised, by him, that there was to be no publicity. I feel like changing at once to another church of the same denomination. I shudder if he breaks out again!

Monday, February 2

Today I give my first "State of the Union" talk before a joint session of the Congress. I feel it a mistake for a new Administration to be talking so soon after inauguration; on basic principles, expounded in an inaugural address is one thing — but to begin talking concretely

Tuesday, February 3

about a great array of specific problems is quite another. Time for study, exploration, and ~~some~~ analysis is necessary. But — the Republicans have been so long out of power they want — and probably need — a pronouncement from their

Wednesday, February 4

9 Prudent, as a starting
10 point, I think I shall
11 try to give.

12 I hope - and pray -
1 that it does not contain
2 blunders that we will
3 later regret.

Thursday, February 5

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