

MONDAY, MAY 31, 1954



In at 8:15.

President did not arrive at the office until 9:00 and we immediately started to work on several changes in the speech. One minor, but important, change was from "protect the nation's vital secrets" to "protect the nation's obvious interests." The President changed that because he said he did not want to limit it -- with the McCarthy business going on -- to "vital secrets" but wanted as broad a definition as possible. He also inserted two paragraphs attacking any individual who because they differ with us classified other individuals or parties as "treasonous". Likewise, the President decided to leave in his speech all remarks aimed at McCarthy, particularly those dealing with "demagogues".

Gave speech out here at noon, and of course, the wire services immediately wanted to get me to say that we were specifically talking about McCarthy. I refused to interpret the President's speech and let it go at that.

The speech got wonderful reception at the dinner. Sat at the same table with Gil Paley, head of CBS, and he said he was going back to his office and give orders to all his newscasters on radio and television to plug the speech. In the morning the President said he would not get much applause on this speech since he was speaking before an academic audience. He was pleasantly surprised when he was interrupted 25 times, particularly on those passages dealing with McCarthy, although he was not named.

On the way out to the airport with Bill Robinson and later in Washington the President expressed extreme satisfaction at reception of his speech.

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