

Tues. March 22

Another day that shouldn't happen. On my desk was a draft of the speech on defense to be delivered tomorrow night on TV. This was one hashed over by NSC, State & Defense. Finally I have a crack at it. I did a lot of re-writing. Much of it was to change bureaucratic into people talk.

But all day there were meetings - with Congress, with our volunteer leaders from the business world, unscheduled meetings having to do with problems & finally a trip to the Capital Club to address a few hundred Repub. donors, Congressmen etc. Finally back to the W.H. to catch up with all the memos & reports that had piled up on my desk since early morning.

During the day speaking to our Cong. Repub. leadership I blasted the Dem. Budget with the press in attendance. It was a good pitch exposing the ridiculous, irresponsible nature of the febrile budget - but on the evening news they used a quick 20 seconds in which I wasn't saying anything about the tax increase, the increase in spending etc.

Wed. March 23rd

The big thing today was the P.M. TV speech on all networks about the Nat. Security. We've been working on the speech for about 72 hrs. & right down to deadline. We had a group in for dinner at the W.H. I didn't join them except before dinner a few words of welcome. Nancy & I then dined early w/ staff. The group included several former Secs. of State, Nat. Security Advisors, distinguished nuclear scientists, the chiefs of staff etc. I did the speech from the Oval office at 8 & then joined the party for coffee. I guess it was O.K. they all praised it to the sky & seemed to think it would be a source of debate for some time to come. I did the bulk of the speech on why our arms buildup was necessary & then finished with a call to the Science community to join us in research starting now to develop a defensive weapon that would render nuclear missiles obsolete. I made no optimistic forecasts - said it might take 20 yrs. or more but we had to do it. I felt good.

Thurs. March 24th

Dr. Clark the D.O. with the artificial heart died. I called Mrs. Clark. She seems like a very nice person. I feel he didn't die in vain. Medical science must know a great deal more because of his courage.