

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Certainly.

Mr. CARROLL. What was the date on which the President issued the press release?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. August 18, 1954, almost 5 years ago. Even after that, of course, the contract continued. After that date and after the committee publicly brought out the facts to such an extent that everybody knew something was rotten, the President finally said, "We must cancel the contract," although he had ordered it entered into.

Mr. CARROLL. Mr. President, will the Senator yield further?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Certainly.

Mr. CARROLL. In my opinion, these facts have never been brought out more clearly at any time in this debate as they have been brought out in the last 2 or 3 minutes? What do we find? We find language in the report of the Commissioner of the Court of Claims, at page 11, as follows:

"It was the basic Eisenhower administration policy on power during 1953 and 1954 that the Government would seek to have either private enterprise or local communities provide power generating sources in partnership with the Government. This policy was first announced in the President's state of the Union message of February 2, 1953."

So there was no doubt that this was a part of Eisenhower policy. There was no secret about it.

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Mr. O'MAHONEY. That was perfectly proper policy for him to espouse and to urge upon the Congress; but what was done under the leadership of the nominee to be Secretary of the Department of Commerce was to try to shortcircuit the Congress and produce, by executive action, a legislative result.

Mr. CARROLL. Mr. President, will the Senator yield further?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. I yield.

Mr. CARROLL. That was an announced policy, which the public knew. On page 11 of the report, in section 23, is found a statement to the effect that, in accordance with that administrative policy, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget was moving forward. The picture becomes very clear. He was moving forward to implement the policy of the administration.

What did he have to hide? Nothing at this point. What later developed? This is the real point, and it has not been brought to the attention of the public. Here is the President of the United States saying, "Open your file. Let the newspapers, let the Congress, take a look at it." That is the President of the United States speaking. Only he can exercise the executive privilege. No one else can exercise it for him. The President said, "Open your file. Let them take a look at it." But did Admiral Strauss open his file? Strauss—not the President of the United States, not the Attorney General, but Strauss—claimed executive privilege. This is the crux of the whole issue. I do not think the President of the United States knew about it, and I do not think the Attorney General knew about it, but within the Bureau of the Budget, a new man, a man named Wenzell, from the First Boston Corp., was coming into the picture. He was financial