

Undated: General: A day in the life of a congressman

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CONGRESSMAN"

Boyer

It is most difficult to describe a 'typical day' because as I look back to the last four years of service in Washington, I find that every new day has been different from the day before--full of new challenges, new problems and excitement. However, keeping this in mind, I will try my best to relate to you what usually happens in a "typical day" in Washington.

My usual day begins at about 6:30 in the morning. During the next hour or so, until my departure for the office, I try to devote most of the time to thoroughly reading the morning daily, the WASHINGTON POST, in addition to allowing time to shave, dress and breakfast. A good study of the morning paper keeps me well informed and current about the day's activities, nationally and internationally.

I usually breakfast at home, but about twice a week, I leave home earlier than usual to attend breakfast meetings at the Capitol. One of these is an Army Reserve meeting, generally held on Tuesday mornings; and the other is a special non-denominational, prayermeeting, held on Wednesdays, consisting of several Senators. Occasionally, I have breakfast in the City with visiting constituents.

It takes me about 35 minutes to drive to the Senate office from my apartment in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Many times inclement weather or some accident along the way will tend to snarl the traffic, which will of course delay me en route. If my first appointment of the day is at 8:00 AM, I generally leave home about 7:15 otherwise, I am generally at my desk by 9:00 A.M.

At the office, I prefer to spend the first hour scanning over my mail and other printed material. My office receives on the average about 150 pieces of mail every day. This includes pamphlets, post cards, magazines, reports, personal letters, propaganda sheets, etc. Many of these requests are simple and relatively easy to acknowledge and service. For example, if you were writing for a certain pamphlet published by the Government, one of my staff members can take care of this for you very easily and very quickly.

However, there are many other letters such as yours requesting personal and intimate information, or my position on legislation. These naturally would have to be personally acknowledged and answered, and these number about 25 every day. My staff is also under instruction to process and

draft replies to certain other letters, which for the most part consist of routine matters. These are cases where either a policy determination is not necessary, or to know that I personally read every letter that is received and personally sign every letter that is mailed out from my office. You can readily see that this can be time-consuming.

At this point, I would like to emphasize the fact that without my staff, it would be impossible to do the work required of me here in Washington. They generally report to work at about 9:00 in the morning, and remain til about 6:30 in the evening. They do not have set hours like most of the commercial firms. Many times circumstances require that they report extremely early in the morning and work around the clock. There have been occasions where staff members had to work till about midnight. As you can see, this makes for a very long day.

My staff presently is made up of eight members, all of whom are from Hawaii. My Administrative Assistant is Dr. Thomas Ige, formerly Chairman of the Department of Economics of the University of Hawaii; my Legislative Assistant is Dr. Ralph Miwa, formerly professor in Government at the University of Hawaii; my Press Assistant is Mr. Jack Teehan, formerly an editorial writer with the HONOLULU ADVERTISER; my Special Assistant is Mr. Henry Giugni, formerly employed by the City & County of Honolulu; my Administrative Secretary is Mrs. Sue Brandon, who has been with me since my first day in Congress in 1959. Her parents reside in Kaimuki. My personal secretary is Miss Kimie Ishibashi, formerly a secretary at the Bank of Hawaii; my receptionist-secretary is Miss Lamela Holt, a graduate of Punahou School; and my clerk-stenographer is Miss Dale Wilhelm, formerly with Hong & Iwai, Attorneys. Both Miss Holt and Miss Wilhelm are from Maui.

My membership on two standing committees of the Senate, the Armed Services Committee and the Public Works Committee require that I devote several mornings--and afternoons when necessary--to committee meetings, which generally begin about 10:00 A.M. When the pressure of urgent business requires it, these committee meetings are called to order in the morning and continue in the afternoon, after a short recess. Such was the case during the recent consideration of the test-ban treaty when the Armed Services Committee was meeting almost every day for

several hours to listen to the testimony by a stream of witnesses, presenting their cases pro and con. Some of these sessions were open to the public; some were secret, from which the public was barred.

Also falling within the scope of a "typical day" is the assignment of presiding over the Senate, a responsibility normally carried out by the Vice President of the United States. By a pre-arranged schedule, I am called upon to preside about three times a week. I find this assignment most interesting and challenging. It pleases me to tell you that, according to the record, I have chalked up more presiding hours to my name this year in the U.S. Senate than any other Senator. I feel it a great honor and a privilege to be able to fulfill this duty.

The Senate session begins at 12:00 noon. During the first hour and a half, a period referred to as the "morning hour," Senators may speak on any subject they desire provided their presentation meets the time limitation of 3 minutes. It is during this "morning hour" that I arrange to have my lunch, unless I have some subject matter I wish to speak on and wish to bring it to the attention of my colleagues.

If my schedule will allow it, I usually lunch at the Capitol in the Senator's Dining Room where I find it convenient to confer with my colleagues on legislative matters, or just to maintain my acquaintance. In order to remain as close as possible to the Capitol at all times, I try to keep to a minimum the number of luncheon commitments outside the Capitol. These for the most part involve some official activity. Ordinarily, about twice a week, my lunch consists of a sandwich and a glass of milk taken at my desk. Also about twice a week, I have occasion to dine with visiting constituents in the Senate Dining Room.

In the afternoons, while the Senate is in session, I sometimes find it necessary to return to my office to devote some time to office matters, such as answering letters. Unfortunately, there are not enough hours in the day, and I find myself forced to leave the Senate session, to do this, but I hope you do not interpret my action as "playing hookey" in any way. You may be pleased to know that I have one of the best attendance and voting records

in the U.S. Senate and can personally vouch for having answered every roll call and quorum call to participate in a vote on some vital measure. I resort to absenting myself from the Senate session only after ascertaining that the matter being discussed is of no concern to Hawaii or her people; or when some colleague is delivering some long-winded speech concerning his own state or some constituent.

I generally leave the office about 7:30 in the evening, reaching home just in time for supper at about 8:15 P.M. Following supper, I spend the greater portion of the evening to reading, however, making it a point to catch the late news at 11:00 P.M. Occasionally, some evenings are devoted to attending official receptions and dinners. Everyday I receive, through the mail and the telephone, invitations for every conceivable type of function, and these average about five per day. Because of my legislative responsibilities, I accept only about 10% of these invitations. If I tried to accept every invitation, you can well imagine the number of hours and evenings I would have to spend away from home and office.

However, I would like to assure you that whenever possible, I make it a point to attend a function which may have among the group, a visiting constituent from Hawaii who may be representing Hawaii in some official capacity. This representative could very well be you. In such a situation, I look forward to meeting the representative and to personally welcoming him/her to Washington. Early next month, I am expecting to welcome to Washington a group of outstanding 4-H boys and girls from Hawaii who will be representing our State at the National Conference in Chicago.

Invitations from the White House are in a special class. These are tantamount to command performances. And it is generally understood that recipients of White House invitations do not decline them unless prevented from doing so by a death or sickness in the family.

You will note that I try to devote a great deal of time to reading. Everyday I spend many hours reading the following papers from Hawaii: ADVERTISER, HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN; HAWAII HOCHI; HAWAII TIMES; GARDEN ISLAND NEWS; MAUI NEWS; and the HILO TRIBUNE-HERALD. This daily routine is helpful in keeping me abreast with the news from Hawaii. In addition to those from Hawaii, I also take the time to read the D.C. morning and evening dailies, the WASHINGTON POST and the WASHINGTON EVENING STAR. I

also maintain subscriptions to various news magazines such as LOOK, LIFE, TIME, NEWSWEEK, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.

In addition to newspapers and magazines, I find it necessary to read countless numbers of Government documents and reports and other reports issued by private organizations. I enjoy reading; however, reading for information and reference is not particularly enjoyable. I am a bit sad that I have had very little time to devote to "pleasure reading."

I enjoy a good movie on rare occasions. The most recent that I have seen, which I recommend highly, is "Lilies of the Field."

At about 12:30 in the evening, I am usually ready for bed --but my day does not end at that hour. Frequently, I am awakened by long-distance calls from Hawaii. Sometimes people tend to forget that there is a time difference of from 5 to 6 hours between Washington, D.C. and Hawaii. So a call originating at 10:00 P.M. in Hawaii would reach me at 3:00 A.M. Some have suggested that I maintain an unlisted telephone number, but I feel I should make myself available at all times of the day -- my job is to serve the people of Hawaii -- 24 hours a day.

Before closing, may I call your attention to the fact that, because of time limitations, I have found it necessary to be brief in this outline -- you must realize that many aspects of Washington life have been omitted here -- and have concerned myself with the major details. However, please allow me to note a few additional details worthy of note at this time.

On the average, about seven Hawaii visitors drop by the office in Washington and I enjoy their visits very much. It can be time-consuming at times, but this is the closest I get to home.

You may have noticed through press reports that I have accepted speaking engagements all over the United States. This year, I have had the privilege of speaking in Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Illinois, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Florida, and Texas.

As stated in my second paragraph, it is most difficult to describe a "typical day" because there is no "typical day" for a United States Senator . I hope that the above will be of some assistance to you.