

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR THURSDAY,  
JANUARY TWENTY-SIXTH, 1967, AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL  
OFFICE (H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE  
GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss  
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Wilson, Goodell, Poff, Cramer  
Senators Kuchel, Smith, Murphy, Scott

Absent:

Congressmen Laird, Rhodes, Smith  
Senators Dirksen, Hickenlooper, Young

Also Present:

John Fisher, Robert McCormick, Robert Hartman, Harry Brookshire,  
J. Mark Trice

Chairman Bliss called the meeting to order at 2:10 P.M. and asked if  
Congressman Ford would present the new House Members to the meeting. Congressman  
Ford presented Congressmen William C. Cramer and Richard H. Poff.

The Chairman then asked Senator Kuchel to introduce the new Members  
from the Senate and Senator Kuchel presented Senators Margaret Chase Smith,  
Hugh Scott and George Murphy. He stated that while Senator Milton R. Young  
is a new Member, he was not present.

The Chairman stated that there were several items on the agenda, the  
first being a schedule for weekly meetings of the Joint Leadership. After  
discussion it was agreed to fix the same day, Wednesday, at 2:00 P.M. as a  
target, subject to any changes that might be necessary.

The second item on the agenda was T.V. coverage of the State of the  
Union message. Mr. Fisher gave an explanation of the coverage that was  
obtained, both live and by tape, but stated that the three main channels  
would not give live coverage at the time requested. Senator Murphy suggested  
that the Independent Networks might be interested next time and that as much  
trouble as possible should be made for the other three.

The suggestion of Congressman Ford was finally agreed to, that independent letters be sent to each, with the wording to be worked out, thanking them in part but objecting to their refusal for live coverage. It was suggested that the ranking Members of the Congressional Committee look into the matter and use their influence, by legislation or otherwise, to bring about a change of thinking on the part of the networks.

The next item concerned the "Question of the Week" that was used last year. It was the general opinion that all alternatives should be explored and the matter resolved later.

Due to a vote in the Senate it became necessary for the Senate Members to leave the meeting but the meeting continued.

A question was raised as to the logical place to hold the Lincoln Day Memorial services this year, whether at the Lincoln Memorial or in the Rotunda of the Capitol. There was no decision made.

The Chairman stated that Maurice Stans was already working on the new Administration budget and would have the report ready for the Joint Leadership and the Coordinating Committee around April first.

The Chairman also stated that we should start now with continued attacks on the Administration proposals so as to maintain the interest at the National level.

There was general discussion on future subject matter and issues for the Joint Leadership Press Conferences.

Suggestions were made to work up something on crime, Secretary McNamara's anti-ballistic-missile disagreement with Congress, increased costs of the beautification program and take another look at poverty.

The Chairman stated that the National Committee was again preparing the Leadership Press Conference statements in pamphlet form, as they did last year.

The Chairman raised a question about campaign funds and said he was not in sympathy with Senator Long's amendment and suggested that the Republicans in both Houses, plus he and Fred Scribner, try to come up with an idea on the subject for presentation to the Joint Leadership.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

*J. Mark Tince.*  
Acting Secretary