

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,  
MAY FIRST, 1968, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (H-202)  
OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss  
Congressmen Ford, Laird, Smith, Wilson, Poff, Cramer  
Senators Dirksen, Hickenlooper, Murphy

Absent:

Congressmen Arends, Rhodes, Goodell  
Senators Kuchel, Smith, Young, Scott

Also Present:

John Fisher, Bryce Harlow, Robert McCormick, Robert Hartman,  
Patrick Boarman, Harry Brookshire, J. Mark Trice

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:12 P.M.

John Fisher stated that the proposed statement on the twenty-first year of independence of the State of Israel had been urged by the Ethnic Committee of the Republican National Committee and it also in effect reaffirmed the position taken by the Coordinating Committee.

He stated that the press conference would be held on Friday instead of Thursday.

Before the statement was read by Senator Dirksen, Senator Hickenlooper stated that he was opposed to its release at this time as it was only adding fuel to the fire. He said that while he agreed with a lot of the details in it, it would only drive certain countries closer to Russia.

Senator Dirksen proceeded to read the statement beginning with the underscoring which represented the parts taken from the Coordinating Committee report. Several changes were made and Senator Murphy thought that the statement was a timely one.

Senator Dirksen then moved that the statement be approved and the motion was seconded by Congressman Ford. The Chairman put the question and

all present voted "yea" except Senator Hickenlooper who voted "nay".  
He announced that the motion was agreed to.

The Chairman called the attention of the Members to the Coordinating Committee meeting next Monday at the Mayflower Hotel when seven papers will be presented.

Congressman Wilson suggested that an appropriate message be sent to General Eisenhower and John Fisher was requested to prepare the necessary message.

Senator Dirksen spoke of the Crime Bill which the Senate has under discussion and stated that Senator Murphy would add Title V to the bill, re J. Edgar Hoover, and Senator Dirksen stated that he would suggest Title VI with regard to Flag Desecration. Congressman Ford stated that it would be a great advantage to the Republicans if the Block Grants provision of the bill would be approved.

Senator Hickenlooper suggested that telegrams be sent to Attorney General Clark to raise inquiry as to whether or not the City of Washington would be safe for tourists and school children coming to the City during the Poor People's March on Washington. He said Senator Williams had shown him a telegram which he had sent in regard to the matter.

The Chairman raised a question about the use of advertising funds for Convention purposes. Congressman Ford stated that it was still all wrapped up in the House because of taxes and economy but that he would talk with John Byrnes again about it.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

  
Acting Secretary