

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,
MAY EIGHTH, 1968, AT 2:30 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (S-230)
SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Senators Dirksen, Murphy
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Rhodes, Wilson, Goodell, Poff, Cramer

Absent:

Chairman Bliss
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Smith, Young, Scott
Congressman Smith

Also Present:

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

In the absence of Chairman Bliss, Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 2:49 P.M. and recognized John Fisher who stated no statement had been prepared but several Members had requested a meeting to ascertain the views of the Leadership on the March on Washington.

Mr. Fisher also spoke of delegation of authority to Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford for the issuance of interim statements. This authority was suggested because of the press of business it was uncertain as to when the Leadership could meet. He also suggested that the statements be issued without a press conference.

Senator Dirksen said that Senator Mansfield was still anxious to conclude the session in early August and Congressman Ford said that the Speaker was most anxious to get out and he said that the Chairman of the Rules Committee had notified all of the Committee Chairmen that the cut-off date for hearings was July 8 or 9.

Senator Dirksen spoke of a meeting with Dr. Abernathy and other persons when they came to call on the Leadership and Congressman Ford

Minutes of the Republican Leadership of the Congress Meeting 5-8-68

reported on his session with the same group. It was stated that no specific demands were made and there were no specifics mentioned.

The subject of advertising in the Convention programs was discussed briefly. Senator Murphy mentioned the demands of the Musicians Union at both Conventions.

Congressman Cramer spoke of the hearings before the House Committee on a bill to restrict the issuance of permits to the marchers. Congressman Ford expressed the opinion that nothing should be done right now. Senator Dirksen was of the opinion now that the march would not be as big as originally estimated. Senator Murphy thought that a statement should be made in regard to the restoration of law and order. Congressman Ford suggested that John Fisher might prepare a rough draft and hold it for next week.

Congressman Ford raised a question concerning the possible extension of all existing Farm Legislation for one year. He asked whether or not the Senate might add other things which might cause complications in the House. He expressed the opinion that this would be a good idea in order to give the new Administration adequate time to prepare a Farm Bill. Senator Dirksen said he would look into the matter.

In reply to a question about the Crime Bill, Senator Dirksen said that he expected that we would have it up all next week.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:34 P.M.

J. Mark Tunic
Acting Secretary