

MINUTES OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT SENATE-  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CALLED FOR THURSDAY,  
MAY 20, 1965, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (H-202)  
OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Present:

Chairman Ray C. Bliss

Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes, Wilson, Goodell  
Senators Dirksen, Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Morton

Absent:

Congressman Brown  
Senator Saltonstall

Also Present:

Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire, Mark Trice, William Pendergast

Chairman Bliss called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. He stated that he was very happy to be present, that he appreciated the opportunity of the group getting together and hoped that all would work for a united front.

Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford stated they were very happy that Chairman Bliss was a member of the group and extended to him their best wishes.

CUBA AND SOVIET COMMUNIST INFLUENCE

Congressman Ford was recognized and he read the previously-prepared press release on the subject and after considerable discussion and several modifications it was approved as read. A copy is attached.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Chairman recognized Senator Dirksen who read a previously-prepared speech on this subject and after a slight change it was approved as read. A copy is attached.

The Chairman then asked if there were any other subject matters to discuss and he recognized Senator Dirksen who stated that he was concerned

with the present illness of Bob Humphreys. After discussion of the matter Senator Morton presented the following Resolution which was seconded and unanimously agreed to:

## RESOLVED:

1. That Robert Humphreys, Staff Director of The Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership Committee, be continued at his present compensation through June 30, 1965.
2. That thereafter he be paid at the rate of \$9,000.00 per annum, the said sum to be divided equally between the Republican National Committee, the Republican Senatorial Committee and the Republican Congressional Committee.

It was stated that this arrangement was agreeable to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, to Senator Morton, Chairman of the Republican Senatorial Committee, and Congressman John J. Rhodes, Chairman of the House Policy Committee, stated that while the matter had not been presented to his committee he was personally for it and was quite sure that his committee would approve it.

Congressman Ford raised a question as to how the Joint Leadership would operate during the illness of Bob Humphreys. All were agreed that Bill Pendergast was doing an outstanding job but, because of his present duties, a heavy burden was being placed upon him. Senator Morton suggested that Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford survey the field and make a recommendation.

It was suggested that the Joint Leadership meet every week whether or not a press release was contemplated.

The Chairman spoke of the coming meeting of the Coordinating Committee on June first and of the appointments made to the various task

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force committees. Chairman Bliss stated that he had stressed to the task forces that final approval of any reports must be by the Coordinating Committee.

Congressman Laird suggested to the Chairman that it might be a good idea to have a liaison of one House Member with the similar committee of the task force.

Chairman Bliss also stated that Senator Goldwater and Governor Dewey would be present for the June first meeting.

It was the opinion of the group that the Chairman, Mr. Bliss, not appear at the 11:00 A.M. press conference.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 A.M.

  
Acting Secretary