

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF
THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR
WEDNESDAY, MAY TWENTY-FOURTH, 1967, 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, Arends, Rhodes, Smith, Poff, Cramer
Senators Dirksen, Smith, Young, Murphy, Scott, Morton

Absent:

Congressmen Laird, Wilson, Goodell
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper

Also Present:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M. and recognized Congressman Arends who read the previously-prepared statement of Congressman Ford in his temporary absence. Several changes were suggested and it was approved.

Chairman Bliss then recognized Senator Dirksen who read his previously-prepared statement and it also was approved.

Congressman Ford appeared and said he would like to read a revised draft of his suggested statement on "Building Bridges". This was done and after suggested changes the statement was approved.

Congressman Ford called to the attention of the Members that Bill Pendergast is in the hospital due to a gall bladder operation and suggested that appropriate notice be taken of it.

Congressman Ford spoke of the letter he had received from former Senator Goldwater asking about any position the Coordinating Committee might take at its July meeting on the subject of Vietnam. After discussion

it was suggested by Senator Dirksen that the agenda of the meeting list Vietnam for informal discussion but that no paper be prepared on the subject. It was suggested that the Chairman convey to Senator Goldwater the thoughts of the Committee.

Senator Scott asked concerning what the situation was in the House in regard to the Reorganization Bill. Congressman Smith said it was still in the Rules Committee and that a new bill which had been prepared on the subject was no better. He said that the Senate bill would definitely not be passed. He also said that there is interest in the House to obtain a ten-day recess in July and that an effort would be made to force the Speaker to do something in this respect.

Senator Morton expressed his appreciation for being invited to the meeting. The Senator raised a question concerning the position of the Republicans in the House on the Fiat Bill and was told that it would be opposed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

J. Mark Trice
Acting Secretary