

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,
JULY SEVENTEENTH, 1968, AT 1:30 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER (H-202), THE HONORABLE
GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes, Smith, Wilson,
Goodell, Poff
Senators Dirksen, Young, Scott

Absent:

Congressman Cramer
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Smith, Murphy

Also Present:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. and recognized Congressman Ford who proceeded to read a draft of a proposed statement on Military and Foreign Policy. After several amendments the statement was approved.

Senator Dirksen then proceeded to read his statement on the same subject and it too was approved after minor corrections.

Congressman Ford asked Senator Dirksen to comment on the possibility of adjournment before the Republican Convention and he said that in his opinion the House could adjourn by August third. Senator Dirksen spoke of his recent meeting with the President and said that the Senate could not make it by that date because of the Nuclear Treaty, Appropriation Bills, Nominations and perhaps the Gun Bill.

He spoke of a recent statement by Senator Mansfield that Congress should stay in session during the Conventions and said that because of the number of Republican Senators who are Delegates this approach certainly would be out. He spoke of the possibility of the Senate returning and the House not being in session.

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Congressman Ford said that it was fairly well decided that if adjournment could not take place by August third, then the House would not return until September fifteenth.

Congressman Ford also raised a question of the Farm Bill Legislation and said that if the House could not get a one-year extension there would be no bill. Senator Young said that the bill on the Senate calendar called for a three or four year extension and that it was the desire of the Committee to have the program for more than one year.

A question was raised as to any action which might be taken by the Republican Party at the Convention in regard to agreeing to a suggestion that if the National Election is thrown into the House, the candidate receiving a majority of the votes be selected. A suggestion was made that something might be included in the Platform on the subject but Senator Dirksen was of the opinion that it should not be included in the Platform but perhaps passed as a resolution of the Convention. It was thought that this might entail lengthy discussion and would not be a good approach. Congressman Ford said he would look into all aspects of the problem.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:29 P.M.

J. Mack Tince
Acting Secretary