

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CALLED
FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST TENTH, 1966, AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE
CAPITOL OFFICE (S-230) OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER,
THE HONORABLE EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Senators Dirksen, Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Saltonstall, Morton
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes

Absent:

Congressmen Smith, Wilson, Goodell

Also Present:

John Fisher, Bryce Harlow, Robert McCormick, William Pendergast,
Harry Brookshire, J. Mark Trice

Prior to calling the meeting to order at 2:09 P.M., Senator Dirksen briefly discussed what might happen when the Civil Rights Bill is received in the Senate. There was still some question as to whether or not a motion might be made to send the bill to Committee with instructions to report back at a certain date. Senator Dirksen said it seemed reasonable that due to the Labor Day week-end that the reporting date should be September 6.

Chairman Bliss then asked John Fisher to explain the "Peace Statement" which had been circulated. Mr. Fisher said that the text before the Membership was a basic statement given to him by Congressman Brad Morse and the object of it was to have the Republicans present something before some statement might be made later in a dramatic fashion by President Johnson. The object was to see if the Leadership could agree on the statement at this time and, if not, then the matter might be presented in a speech or in an article.

It was not presented as something that could not be changed but merely to see if it might be generally satisfactory, with thought given to other alternatives if necessary.

Congressman Laird said that he had known of the statement but he raised a question about doing anything now, in the light of the fact that the Research and Planning Group of the House was studying the matter and expected a report soon.

It was suggested that Mr. Fisher read the various proposals listed, which he did. After the reading, Congressman Ford thought that the matter should be studied in depth and lay over a week.

Others thought there were certain errors in the statement and that it was a bit too theoretical.

Congressman Ford raised a question as to whether or not, because of the return of Dick Nixon, it might be wise to have him look at it. It was suggested that Mr. Fisher explore the possibility of having Mr. Nixon come down and meet with the group.

It was agreed that nothing should be done with it at this time.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

J. Ward Price
Acting Secretary