
Present:
Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes, Smith, Cramer
Senators Dirksen, Kuchel, Young, Murphy, Scott

Absent:
Congressmen Wilson, Goodell, Poff
Senators Hickenlooper, Smith

Also Present:
John Fisher, Bryce Harlow, Robert McCormick, Robert Hartman, Harry Brookshire, J. Mark Trice

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:55 P.M. and asked John Fisher to give his opinion of the following suggested subjects for future Leadership releases:

- Poverty -- The Opportunity Crusade
- Law Enforcement and Crime
- Inflation and Rising Living Costs
- The Farmer and the Consumer
- Taxes -- Excessive Spending
- Gold Drain and Balance of Payments
- Decline of U. S. Prestige and Leadership
- Vietnam -- The Role of Congress

Mr. Fisher said that on the first two there was an even difference of opinion and that he considered these the important issues at this time. With regard to the first one, Poverty, it was suggested that this be held up for a week or two in order for a House study group to make a report thereon.

After discussion it was the sense of the meeting that a statement should be prepared on Law Enforcement and Crime for a meeting which was agreed upon at 2:30 P.M. next Monday, with a press conference on Tuesday. Senator Dirksen suggested that a check be made with Senator Hruska on the subject and with Bernie Waters of his staff.
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The Chairman suggested, in the light of the agreement reached on the second item, that the remaining subjects be deferred for a future meeting.

Congressman Arends suggested that the "Credibility Gap" should be emphasized again, with Vice President Humphrey talking one way and President Johnson, the other.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:27 P.M.

[Signature]

Acting Secretary