

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR MONDAY,  
JANUARY FIFTEENTH, 1968, AT 3:00 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, Young, Scott  
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Wilson, Goodell, Poff, Cramer

Absent:

Senators Hickenlooper, Smith, Murphy  
Congressmen Laird, Rhodes, Smith

Also Present:

John Fisher, Robert Hartman, Patrick Boarman, Richard Burren,  
Harry Brookshire, J. Mark Trice

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the meeting was called to order at 3:08 P.M. and John Fisher proceeded to advise the meeting of the availability of a general press conference following the President's State of the Union message. The press conference was to be set up in S-207 immediately following the President's speech with the idea of Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford leading off with other Senators and Congressmen available for comment.

It was the general consensus that all present were for the press conference and it was suggested that all not present be notified.

John Fisher also said that two other groups, the American Newspaper Women's Club and Overseas Press Club Association, were meeting in the Rayburn Cafeteria to which all Members were invited for a question and answer period after the President's speech.

John Fisher also said in regard to the Republican State of the Union message on the evening of January twenty-third, CBS had agreed to

Minutes of the Republican Leadership of the Congress Meeting 1-15-68

give one hour live time beginning at 10:00 o'clock. He said that Education TV would also carry it live but that ABC and NBC had said nothing so far and the Leadership approved a suggested letter to those two networks. It was unanimously agreed that the offer of CBS should be accepted. It was further agreed that Senator Murphy be asked to take charge of the telecast. Senator Murphy was contacted by telephone in California and said he would be glad to do so.

It was agreed by Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford that part of the hour would be used by the new Members of both the Senate and the House. It was also decided that the Governors would not be asked to participate.

Also, that if any funds were needed for production costs the Republican National Committee would pick up the tab.

Many questions were raised because of the importance of the live telecast, namely, coordination of the speakers and speeches and a general understanding of the areas to be covered.

A suggestion was made that General Eisenhower be asked to participate but no decision was made.

It was decided to have the Leadership meet tomorrow morning at 11:00 o'clock in H-202 when Senator Murphy could be present to discuss further the matter.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:43 P.M.

*A. Mark Tice*  
Acting Secretary