

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR TUESDAY,
JANUARY SIXTEENTH, 1968, AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
(H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes, Smith, Goodell,
Poff, Cramer
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Murphy

Absent:

Congressman Wilson
Senators Dirksen, Smith, Young, Scott

Also Present:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:07 A.M. and said the purpose was to further discuss the matters raised at the meeting on yesterday with regard to the live TV coverage on next Tuesday evening, January 23 at 10:00 P.M.

The Chairman recognized Senator Murphy who stated that after some thought he had reached the following conclusions: first, that it should be held in an auditorium or theater with a live audience and, second, that the program should present a live, sharp hitting image with a master of ceremonies and use of three podiums. Also, he thought that the first half should be with the master of ceremonies going back and forth between Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford with questions and answers. The second half he thought it would be wise to use four of the best-looking Senators and four Congressmen.

A number of ideas were expressed as to the format and it was finally left in the hands of Senator Murphy to work out the show in general. He

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

said he had a specialist in the field coming down today to talk over the general format. Senator Murphy suggested that Congressman George Bush act as master of ceremonies but the general consensus was that Senator Murphy should assume that part.

Congressman Ford stated he would like to get a piece of film from President Eisenhower to use on the show but no definite decision was made.

It was suggested that the telecast open with a religious or patriotic theme.

The Chairman suggested that some of the questions cover the five years of the Johnson Administration.

Congressman Ford reminded Members to come promptly to S-207 after the President's State of the Union message for TV interviews.

He also spoke of a news story in the Washington Post this morning in regard to the meeting on yesterday and said he thought it was very unfortunate that the article had been written. Senator Murphy stated that he would telephone the author, Mr. Pincus, and talk with him about it. It was agreed that Senator Murphy should be the spokesman for the group.

The Chairman reminded the Members of the meeting tomorrow morning at 10:00 A.M. in Senator Dirksen's office at which Governor Reagan would be present.

It was also thought wise to have a meeting or two between now and next Tuesday to further discuss the telecast.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

J. Mark Force
Acting Secretary