

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR THURSDAY,
JANUARY EIGHTEENTH, 1968, AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL
OFFICE (H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Smith, Wilson, Goodell, Poff, Cramer
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Young, Murphy, Scott

Absent:

Congressmen Laird, Rhodes
Senators Dirksen, Smith

Also Present:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. and before taking silent pictures of the Membership for a coming documentary, a suggested release in regard to the film produced by Felix Greene was read. The suggested release was amended in several particulars and then agreed to.

It was thought best that the statement be released for tomorrow morning papers in the names of Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford.

The Chairman then recognized Senator Murphy who spoke in regard to the Republican State of the Union TV show on next Tuesday. He suggested that John Fisher handle the tickets and that the doors of the auditorium be closed promptly at 9:45 P.M.

He then listed approximately 12 subjects for the question and answer part of the show. He stated that the short film of President Eisenhower would be used at the opening and then the camera would pan to the master of ceremonies.

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He also mentioned 8 or 10 Members of the House and Senate who would be selected to participate in the telecast if the prepared responses were satisfactory to them.

He said that at the start Senator Dirksen would cover the international image and Congressman Ford would speak in regard to the domestic fields. There would be a final wrap-up of about two minutes.

He said he didn't think another meeting would be necessary but he hopes to have a rehearsal on Monday and Tuesday.

He said that he was working with Congressman Goodell who would cover the House Members and he would cover the Senate. Any suggestions should be relayed to Congressman Goodell and Senator Murphy.

He said that for each response, the first sentence would be a positive statement as well as the last.

A question was raised about the use of a teleprompter for the occasion and the matter was to be looked into.

He said that in order that the text might be available to the newspapers for Wednesday morning, a general release would be prepared, with the full text of the Dirksen and Ford statements, which they are preparing themselves.

The Chairman raised a question about printing the complete text for distribution as has been done in the past and it was agreed that it should be done.

The Committee was unanimous in its agreement that Senator Murphy should act as master of ceremonies.

It was thought it might be helpful if several charts or diagrams could be used.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.