

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED
FOR THURSDAY, MARCH SIXTEENTH, 1967, AT 1:30 P.M. IN
THE CAPITOL OFFICE (H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER,
THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Rhodes, Smith, Cramer
Senators Dirksen, Smith, Young, Murphy, Scott

Absent:

Congressmen Laird, Wilson, Goodell, Poff
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper

Also Present:

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

Chairman Bliss called the meeting to order at 1:43 P.M. and suggested that the prepared statements of the two Leaders be read.

The Chairman recognized Senator Dirksen who read his statement on the Kennedy Round negotiations. The Senator stated that the Senate Finance Committee had already held one meeting on the subject last Friday. He said complaints had been received by the steel people as well as those representing textiles. The general consensus seemed to be that there should not be a year extension of the present act but that it be extended for sixty days until the whole matter could be gone into. It was suggested that the statement be amended to include a paragraph putting the Administration on notice that amendments should be made to the existing law. The statement was approved.

Congressman Ford then read his statement on the same subject and it was approved after changes were made in paragraph 3 concerning America's military commitments to Europe. It was also suggested that the first paragraph be strengthened to include the action of the House Rules Committee.

The Chairman asked if next Wednesday would be satisfactory for another meeting and it was agreed that the Joint Committee would meet on that day at 1:30.

The film which was made at the Lincoln Memorial for use in schools, rallies and on other occasions was then shown. Mr. Fisher stated that the cost of the film was modest and it was suggested that the cost be assumed by the two Campaign Committees. Senator Murphy raised a question concerning the Senatorial Campaign Committee assuming its share of the cost. No decision was made.

Senator Murphy suggested that a resolution be prepared and signed by the Members of the Joint Leadership in regard to the death of Victor A. Johnston.

The Chairman stated that another matter on the agenda relative to appointment of a task force on Vietnam be passed over and taken up at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:28 P.M.

J. Mark F. ...
Acting Secretary