

MINUTES OF THE NINETY-NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT SENATE-
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CALLED FOR FRIDAY,
JUNE 18, 1965, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (S-230)
OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
EVERET MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Chairman Ray C. Bliss

Senators Dirksen, Morton
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Laird, Rhodes, Goodell (substituting
for Congressman Brown who is ill)

Absent:

Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Saltonstall
Congressmen Brown, Wilson

Also Present:

William Pendergast, Bryce Harlow, Arthur Peterson,
Harry Brookshire, Mark Trice

Chairman Bliss called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and recognized Senator Dirksen who read a previously-prepared policy statement on South Vietnam. A number of changes were made and the statement was approved. A copy is attached.

Congressman Ford then proceeded to read another previously-prepared statement on the same subject and also read for possible use a third statement which he said he had used as a radio statement for his Congressional District.

The first statement read by Congressman Ford was approved after several changes were made. A copy is attached. It was decided that it would not be wise at this time to use the third statement as it was felt that a question would be raised as to a disclaimer of responsibility on the part of the Republicans for United States actions there.

The recent bombings, the advisability of putting a stamp of approval on everything done in Vietnam and the use of ground forces were discussed at length.

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The Chairman informed the Membership that he was attempting to beef up the research sources at the Committee and was working in cooperation with the research groups here.

Senator Dirksen informed the Members that the health of Mr. Humphreys was improved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.



Acting Secretary