

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST TWENTY-THIRD, 1967, AT 1:30 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD

Present:

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

Absent:

Congressmen Wilson, Goodell, Poff
Senators Hickenlooper, Smith

Also Present:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:55 P.M. and asked
John Fisher to give his opinion of the following suggested subjects for
future Leadership releases:

Poverty -- The Opportunity Crusade
Law Enforcement and Crime
Inflation and Rising Living Costs
The Farmer and the Consumer
Taxes -- Excessive Spending
Gold Drain and Balance of Payments
Decline of U. S. Prestige and Leadership
Vietnam -- The Role of Congress

Mr. Fisher said that on the first two there was an even difference
of opinion and that he considered these the important issues at this time.
With regard to the first one, Poverty, it was suggested that this be held
up for a week or two in order for a House study group to make a report
thereon.

After discussion it was the sense of the meeting that a statement
should be prepared on Law Enforcement and Crime for a meeting which was
agreed upon at 2:30 P.M. next Monday, with a press conference on Tuesday.
Senator Dirksen suggested that a check be made with Senator Hruska on the
subject and with Bernie Waters of his staff.

The Chairman suggested, in the light of the agreement reached on the second item, that the remaining subjects be deferred for a future meeting.

Congressman Arends suggested that the "Credibility Gap" should be emphasized again, with Vice President Humphrey talking one way and President Johnson, the other.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:27 P.M.


Acting Secretary