

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH, 1968, AT 1:30 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL
OFFICE (S-124) OF THE CONSULTANT TO THE LEADERSHIP,
JOHN B. FISHER

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Senators Dirksen, Scott
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Rhodes, Wilson, Goodell, Poff, Cramer

Absent:

Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Smith, Young, Murphy
Congressmen Laird, Smith

Also Present:

John B. Fisher, Bryce Harlow, Robert McCormick, Patrick Boarman,
Harry Brookshire, J. Mark Trice

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M.

Congressman Ford read his previously-prepared press statement re-
lating to "Doubts on the Part of the Administration" and after several minor
changes it was approved.

Senator Dirksen then read his previously-prepared statement on the
same subject and it too was approved after amendment.

Congressman Ford raised a question as to whether or not the President
was sending up to the Congress a declaration of war. There seemed to be no
information on this subject.

Senator Dirksen raised a question as to what might be the reason for
the 5:00 o'clock press conference of Governor Romney but no definite information
was available.

Congressman Ford spoke of the "start and stop bombing effort" in Viet-
nam and this situation in relation to additional troops was briefly discussed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

J. Mark Trice
Acting Secretary