

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH MEETING
OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED
FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH TWENTY-SECOND, 1967, 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, Laird, Rhodes, Poff, Cramer
Senators Dirksen, Kuchel, Smith, Young

Absent:

Congressmen Smith, Wilson, Goodell
Senators Hickenlooper, Murphy, Scott

Also Present:

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

Chairman Bliss called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. and recognized Congressman Ford who read his draft of the prepared statement on Farm Prices. After several changes the statement was approved.

Senator Dirksen was then recognized and he read his draft on the same subject and after changes were made it also was approved.

Senator Dirksen suggested that there be prepared a future paper on the New Federalism, outlining what it is, the controls it would entail and spell out all aspects of the issue.

The Chairman suggested that an adequate number of farm statements be printed in order that they might be mailed to farm leaders and farm papers throughout the country.

It was stated that the Press Conference had been postponed until 2:00 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Fisher who read a letter he had prepared in regard to the demise of Victor Johnston. It was approved and Members were asked to sign it.

The Chairman raised a question about a group to write a task force paper on the subject of Vietnam and as to whether a new group should be named or whether the committee now working under Ambassador Hill might handle the matter. The subject was put over because of recent action taken by the Republican Policy Committee to have that group study the subject.

Senator Dirksen spoke of the inability of the members of the Tariff Commission to do a proper job and suggested that the matter be looked into further.

Congressman Ford raised a question about a suggestion by Mr. Hartman that a film be made in regard to Thomas Jefferson similar to the one of Lincoln. It was thought the idea a good one but the question of paying for the film came up and it was decided to think the matter over. The approximate cost of the Lincoln film was \$4,500.00 with \$30.00 for the cost of individual prints. Senator Dirksen suggested that a few individuals might be contacted to assume the cost of the film if it was ascertained that the contributions would be tax exempt.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, Senator Dirksen and Congressman Ford would supply two names of persons to serve with others as a committee to try to resolve the matter of campaign contributions, resulting from the Long amendment.

Congressman Ford raised a question about the recent statements appearing in the papers concerning a National Constitutional Convention on Reapportionment and Senator Dirksen went into the history of the amendment and informed the Members of the present status of the matter.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Acting Secretary