

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 24 - 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | I. Surtax |
| 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. | II. Senate Report |
| 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. | III. House Report |



DIARY OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP
MEETINGS -- 91st CONGRESS

June 24, 1969

The President had been aloft in a helicopter viewing the daily traffic snarl and after landing on the south lawn, he entered the Cabinet Room at 8:40 a. m.

Ford said that both Mills and Byrnes are asking the Rules Committee today for a closed rule on the surtax extension bill. According to McCormack, only 3 Democrats will join the 5 Republicans on the Rules Committee. On the roll call on the rule, we will need even more Republican votes than we will need on passage of the bill. Passage will come late Wednesday. There will be a straight motion to recommit which will be made by one of the Republican members on the Committee. Since all voted for the bill, this will require one to change his position. Morton said, "You have got a willing volunteer." "Failure to pass the bill on the Floor will be a reflection on the Democratic leadership," Ford said. Byrnes said that they would ask for 4 hours of debate. Smith agreed that the major problem was among the Democratic members of the Rules Committee.

RMN made one of the most vigorous dissertations on the urgency of the matter which I have heard him deliver. In parliamentary bodies around the world, it is always understood that a tax measure or any other measure dealing with the budgetary process is regarded as a party policy matter. He said that he would not consider a vote on other issues such as ABM to be such, but that he could not look upon a tax vote as anything else. He said that he had looked over the list of Republican Members who are undecided or will vote "no." Ninety percent represent safe districts. He said he understood that conservatives who voted "no" on the issue last year would want to vote "no" this year for the sake of consistency. However, he believes that these same con-



servatives who have "bled and died for the Party over the years" would respond to a party-loyalty appeal.

Rhodes inquired about the withholding tax tables. Hughes said that if the House passes the bill tomorrow, an effort will be made to put a rider on some House bill already in the Senate. Rhodes suggested the Supplemental Appropriation bill. Byrnes said that it is difficult, if not constitutionally questionable, to put a tax rider on an appropriation bill. He recommended that such a procedure be cleared with Mills before it is undertaken.

RMN inquired about the situation in the Senate. Dirksen said that the Senate is like last Sunday's weather -- cloudy and unpredictable. He said that there has been little cloak room discussion about the issue. However, he feels that the Senate "will rise to the occasion and everything will work out all right." Williams feels that we can count on 2 or 3 Democratic votes in the Finance Committee, just enough to report the bill. He reiterated his own conviction that higher taxes and higher interest will not check inflation as effectively as spending cuts. He also said that savings bonds interest rates should be increased to 6% in order to siphon off some of the excess spending money. RMN asked if the problem in the Senate would not be amendments offered to the tax bill. Dirksen said, "No." Scott said that the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Long) would not want anyone to have an opportunity of offer an amendment concerning oil depletion and accordingly would help to oppose amendments generally.

Hughes said that the Bureau has a savings bond proposal already prepared but waiting on passage of the surtax bill. RMN told Hughes not to count on him to make any public appeal to little people to buy 4 1/4% savings bonds when the savings and loan company down the street will pay them 5 1/2% for their savings. Dirksen reported that the Senate had passed a bill authorizing 69 new federal judges. The President asked me (Poff) what its



prospects were in the House. I told him that I was not able to give him a forecast but that I felt reasonably sure that the Chairman would not see fit to act immediately and probably not before the end of the session at the earliest. RMN asked if this had anything to do with Kronheim. I smiled and said that it might have some relationship (Mr. Celler wants Kronheim, whose 15-year term expires this year, reappointed). Dirksen reported on the so-called "commitments bill." He has prepared a substitute which exempts national security commitments and in other respects gives the President more flexibility. RMN said that it is extremely important not to inhibit the President with respect to his power to act promptly in emergencies. Legislation such as this could destroy America's bargaining power with other nations. One of the few tactical advantages America has in the field of international action is the power of the President under the Constitution to conduct foreign affairs and make other commitments on his own responsibility. On the other hand, decisions in Russia must be made by the Triumvirate. He said that Dirksen's substitute is a statesman-like approach. "In international affairs," he said, "half the game is keeping the other fellow guessing." Rhodes suggested that Dirksen might want to introduce a substitute as a S. J. Res. Dirksen said that this would require the President's signature, and this might be a source of embarrassment. Dirksen said that the Agricultural Appropriations bill will likely be deferred, at Senator Ellender's request, until after the July 4 recess. Scott asked Dirksen to report about the legislation backlog. Dirksen said that 102 bills now have status in committee. He predicted that Congress will be in session until Christmas.

Ford reported that the Atomic Energy Authorization bill will be considered by the House beginning at 11:00 a. m. today. The legislation has an "ABM potential" in the field of research. The Independent Offices Appropriation bill will be considered later today. It includes a \$358 million



cut in the housing budget. The interstate taxation bill scheduled for Thursday will be postponed on account of the Bates funeral.

Anderson said that HUD had approached him enlisting his support on amendments to restore housing cuts. The Johnson budget committed \$14.5 million to the fair housing program; the Nixon budget, \$10 million; the Appropriation Committee, \$3.5 million. Anderson feels that Republicans cannot sit "idly by" and fail to offer Floor amendments that raise the spending commitment to the level projected in the Nixon budget. Rhodes said that he hoped that Anderson would not offer any amendments because they would be defeated and this would lock the hands of the House conferees in dealing with Senate amendments. Taft said that the Democrats will offer the amendments anyway. Ford said that it would be appropriate to have Republican speeches in support of a restoration of some cuts but that he hoped that nothing would be done to offend Southern Democrats today because this may cost us their votes on the surtax tomorrow.

Cramer raised the question of the transportation network in the District of Columbia. RMN said that he had talked with Hahn, Volpe and Mayor Washington and that they had agreed to discuss the matter with Cramer and Ford in the near future.

The President said "thank you" at 9:45 a. m.

RICHARD H. POFF



JUNE 24, 1969

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESS CONFERENCE
OF
SENATOR EVERETT M. DIRKSEN
AND
CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM

AT 9:50 A.M. EDT

CONGRESSMAN FORD: Good morning.

The principal matter that was discussed this morning was the situation involving the surtax in the House of Representatives and also the prospects in the Senate.

The Committee on Ways and Means' Chairman and the ranking Republican are going before the Committee on Rules this morning and asking for a closed rule. The prospects are that a closed rule will be granted and that the matter will come before the House tomorrow, probably with an allocation of four hours general debate and then a vote up or down.

I am confident that the House of Representatives will pass the surtax. We will have 130 or more Republicans. I am confident that with the cooperation of the Democratic leadership, the Speaker, the Democratic Majority Leader and Majority Whip, there will be more than enough votes to put the surtax through as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: We discussed the surtax prospects in the Senate, likewise. It is a rather singular thing, but it has been discussed so little, either around the luncheon table in the private dining room or in the cloak rooms, and I presume it will not be discussed very much until the House takes action.

But I feel reasonably confident that there will be a pretty good vote in the House that will have a decided impact on the Senate.

I believe, also, that the inflation issue is having a real psychological impact in the country and that is going to help the cause very materially. So we will get after the problem as soon as the House has acted on it and I am pretty confident that Senator Long will convene the Finance Committee and then we will see where we will go from there. It hardly needs very much attention. I would suggest that one day's hearing would almost be enough and thereafter the Committee could vote.

I thought maybe you might want a little rundown, generally, on what we have in the House. Today we are going to take up the Otepka nomination. Insofar as I know, the only speech that will be made on the subject will be Senator Young of Ohio.

MORE

(OVER)



We will also take up a resolution to expand the authorization for the Food Stamp Program. It is non-controversial. It should offer no difficulty.

There may be one or two other things and then we will get back on Senate Resolution 85 introduced by Senator Fulbright and passed by the Foreign Relations Committee. There will be a substitute for it and insofar as I can tell at the moment that may be introduced by Senator Dodd and Senator Mundt, both of whom are on the Foreign Relations Committee. We have had some sessions on the matter. I have discussed it with Senator Sparkman on the telephone, since he was in Alabama. I discussed it with Senator Cooper. And we discussed it in our Policy Committee last Tuesday. So this is the fruit of those efforts and that language will be offered and, in my judgment, it, of course, is decidedly better.

I made the point on the Senate Floor yesterday that obviously the President must be opposed to a resolution of this kind, regardless of the text that you undertake to prepare, largely because it would almost look as if he were sustaining an impairment of his Constitutional powers if he undertook to be for it. That, obviously, he cannot do.

Probably one other point needs attention. The danger always in a resolution of this kind, whether Senate Resolution 85 or a substitute, that it is so easy in all areas of the world where they don't know too much about the niceties and balances of Government in our Constitutional system, that it could be misinterpreted and it could be misinterpreted at home. But it offers something of a problem for every Member of the Senate in the sense that if you try to put it on the grounds of him embracing his responsibilities in the field of foreign policy as a Senator and then somehow reject the whole idea, that is a rather difficult thing to defend. That was my principal interest in the matter.

Q Other than the matter of surtax, what else was discussed this morning with the Leadership and the President?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: We had a very broad review of the legislative agenda this week and those that are in prospect in the future as far as the House was concerned and much the same as far as the Senate.

Q Did you discuss the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of HEW?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No.

Q Senator, would you oppose Dr. John Knowles?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, now, I said weeks ago that I am not disposed to discuss the matter. I said at an informal press conference on the Senate Floor yesterday, in response to all the questions, that I do not discuss it, period. That is it.

Q Senator, on the surtax, how soon do you think it will come to a vote in the Senate?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That I can't say. You have to adopt a rule. Then they have to act on the bill. There may be four hours on the rule, I should say. I hope we don't take too much time in the Senate Finance Committee.

Once it is reported, of course, you can give it a clear course and get action on the Floor without undue delay.

Q Senator, what is the outlook on the ABM?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, of course, I am very hopeful about the ABM. I think, as you look, of course, at the polls that have been taken among the public and how they feel, that that is beginning to have its impact here. I have no doubt that when the time comes we, of course, will certainly be topside. The question now is how soon can you get to it. That involves the Agricultural Appropriations Bill. It was marked up yesterday and the Full Committee will mark up tomorrow.

Now, some Members don't want it to come up before the 4th of July because they will be out of town. So it offers a bit of a problem.

On the other hand, to devote too much time to it after we return on July 7th would not be quite the thing to do in the sense that one of the Senators -- and perhaps I had better not mention his name -- had planned to go out to Kwajalein and they talked him out of it on the ground that this ABM matter might come up immediately after we returned from the July recess.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: On the ABM, I think it is rather interesting that the authorization bill for the Atomic Energy Commission is scheduled for consideration on the Floor of the House today. It was scheduled for yesterday, but was deferred because of Congressman Bates' death. But in this authorization bill for the Atomic Energy Commission, there is approximately \$130-some million related to the ABM. It is almost unbelievable, but the opponents of the ABM will not rise up and challenge this authorization in the House of Representatives.

We would rather welcome their bringing the issue up on the Floor of the House, but they seem most reluctant, which is an indication to me that they know that the ABM, as recommended by the President, will be overwhelmingly approved in the House of Representatives. I guess they would rather take their chances in the Senate, but I think they will be beaten there, too.

Q Have you been informed of any delay in the Administration's welfare proposals?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I know of no delay.

Q Did you discuss any upcoming messages this morning?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No.

MORE

(OVER)



Q Senator Dirksen, do you see any substantial possibility that the surtax will be completed by the Senate by June 30th?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is rather doubtful, I must confess.

Q Then in the event that it were not completed, how will the matter be disposed of?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: We will have to be thinking in the general domain of some continuing resolutions.

Q Jerry, since the Senator's lips are sealed on the Knowles matter, can you tell us whether or not the matter was discussed this morning?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The matter was not discussed this morning in the meeting with the President.

Q This morning the President went on a helicopter tour of the Washington area. Were the traffic problems of the Washington area discussed and did the President have any comments?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: After the meeting broke up, the President talked about his trip by helicopter. I think an effort is going to be made by Secretary of Transportation Volpe to try and break the logjam. He has been working on it and I think he is going to pursue these efforts more in the next day or two.

I hope we can end up with a coordinated freeway and subway system. This is the kind of solution that is needed to meet the ever-growing traffic problems in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia.

Q Did you get into Vietnam at all?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: None whatsoever.

Q Was there any report on when the Administration will come up with its Voting Rights proposal?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: That matter was not discussed.

END

AT 10:02 A.M. EDT

HOUSE ACTION, PERIOD JUNE 17 THROUGH JUNE 23, 1969

Tuesday, June 17, 1969

PUBLIC HEALTH CIGARETTE SMOKING ACT

RULE (OPEN)

The House adopted by voice vote, H.Res.437, providing 3 hours debate.

MINORITY EMPLOYEES

The House passed by voice vote, H.Res.441, relating to salary adjustments for certain minority employees of the House.

Wednesday, June 18, 1969

PUBLIC HEALTH CIGARETTE SMOKING ACT Continuation

PASSAGE

The House passed by voice vote H.R.6543, to extend public health protection with respect to cigarette smoking.

The House rejected all amendments.

RECOMMIT

Prior to passage, the Brotzman motion to recommit the Bill to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce was rejected by a record vote of 137 yeas to 262 nays.

Thursday, June 19, 1969

YAKIMA RECLAMATION PROJECT

RULE (OPEN)

The House adopted H.Res.440 by voice vote, providing 1 hour debate.

PASSAGE

By voice vote, the House passed S.742, providing extension of the Kennewick division, Yakima, Washington project.



Tuesday, June 24, 1969, and Balance of Week

H.R.12167 - To authorize appropriations to the Atomic Energy Commission (Open Rule - two hours of debate)

H.J.Res. ___ - Making continuing appropriations for FY 1970

H.R. ___ - Independent Offices - Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, FY 1970

H.R.12290 - Relating to surcharge extension and investment credit repeal (subject to a Rule being granted)

H.R.7906 - Interstate Taxation Act (Open Rule - two hours of debate, making H.R.906 in order as an amendment)

