

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AGENDA

January 28, 1969

- | | | |
|-----------------|------|--|
| 8:30-8:40 a.m. | I. | Upcoming Congressional Activities |
| 8:40-9:10 a.m. | II. | Executive Actions |
| | | a. Interest increase, FHA mortgages |
| | | b. Surplus Federal properties for municipalities |
| | | c. Amendments to Johnson budget |
| 9:10-9:40 a.m. | III. | Legislation |
| | | a. Legislative-Executive pay increase - status |
| | | b. Re-enactment of Reorganization Act |
| | | c. Formulation of legislative program |
| | | d. Anti-crime programs |
| 9:40-9:50 a.m. | IV. | Statement for Press Conference |
| 9:50-10:00 a.m. | V. | Photographs |



DIARY OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP MEETINGS -- 91st CONGRESS

January 28, 1969

omit

Foreword: (The following digest is based upon pencil notes taken casually at the first meeting of the new President with the Joint House-Senate Leadership in the Cabinet Room in the White House. Not until the following day was I advised by Ford that I had been named Secretary to the House Republican Leadership and was to serve in that capacity in addition to my capacity as Secretary of the House Republican Conference. He said that one of the functions of the new post would be to keep minutes of White House Leadership meetings. Because I was not apprised prior to the meeting, these minutes must be interpreted as incomplete and imprecise.)

omit

Personal Note: I left my home in Annandale at 7:15, anticipating that the trip through traffic would consume 55 or 60 minutes. I arrived at the White House, was told where to park my car and invited into the South Entrance. Someone took my hat and coat, another grabbed me by the arm and led me to the elevator and as I exited from the elevator, still another person took me by the arm, opened a door to a room which was not familiar to me and ushered me suddenly into the presence of the President, the Vice-President, the Senate Republican Leader, the House Republican Leader and Bryce Harlow. I hope all present could see how embarrassed I was and thus understood that I was an innocent interloper. The President shook hands and invited me to have breakfast. I replied that I had already had breakfast and wanted nothing to eat. He ordered coffee and asked me to have a seat at the table beside Dirksen. I recall little about the conversation which continued some 45 minutes until 8:30, except Ramsey Clark's charge that RIN had broken his word when he withdrew the 5 judicial nominations. RIN pointed out that he had said specifically that some of the names withdrawn would be resubmitted to the Senate and suggested that the one in whom President Johnson was most interested might properly be renominated. All agreed that this was Barefoot Sanders. Cecil Poole's name was also raised. I said that I had come



to know him as a Member of the Advisory Committee to the National Commission on Reform of the Federal Criminal Laws of which I am privileged to be Vice-Chairman. I said that while Poole's approach is decidedly liberal, he is an able and articulate advocate, extremely knowledgeable in the field of criminal justice, very faithful in attendance to his duties on the Committee and commands a good deal of support in many circles. Senator Dirksen said that Senator Murphy was very much opposed to Mr. Poole on the strength of some information he had received from California attorneys. RMN indicated that he would likely name another aspirant to this berth.

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Begin
The meeting assembled at 8:40 in the Cabinet Room. RMN presented the following agenda:

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RMN said that after the legislative machinery begins to function, these Leadership meetings will be held weekly on Tuesday mornings, beginning at 8:30 a.m. He plans, tentatively for February 18, a bipartisan Leadership meeting at the White House and possibly other such meetings later in the year. In attendance at these meetings will be only those members of the Leadership selected by Dirksen and Ford in negotiation with Marlow. There will be a Congressional Reception in two parts on February 19 and 20 -- no white tie. Later, RMN will hold White House meetings with ranking Minority Members of committees and appropriate members of the Cabinet.

Romney explained why HUD increased interest ceilings on FHA mortgages. Burns emphasized that it was the interest ceiling and not the interest market that was raised. The purpose was to prevent the leakage of available investment funds away from housing.

Agnew discussed a program to attack poverty by municipalities using surplus federal property for instructional, recreational and other purposes. He mentioned as an example the Brooklyn Navy Yard and indicated that Congressman Celler is planning such legislation with respect to that facility. Legislation is necessary for the sale of any federal property for less than fair market value. There are presently about 24 such properties available. RMN asked if the program could not be broadened to include depressed rural areas. Agnew replied in the affirmative. Cramer reminded the President that EDA was expiring this year and would have to be extended and that the Democrats are trying to steal a march in the pollution abatement program. RMN said that the Administration needs to do something different and decisive in the poverty field and said that this approach would appeal to the country because it avoids a waste of facilities now standing idle and returns them to the tax rolls of the localities and at the same time provides jobs.

Budget Director Mayo reported that he is taking a "fishy-eyed look" at the priority lists being submitted by agency heads. He said that there will be no major surgery on the FY69 budget, but that special efforts would be made to make reductions in the FY70 budget. Dirksen asked if this could be said publicly.



Mayo said yes. RMN interjected to say that it might be better to say that we are making a major effort to reduce the FY69 budget, but that it is difficult to perform major surgery on a carry-over budget without endangering the future of the patient. He said further that it is important to emphasize the need to keep the budget under control and spending limited in order to dampen the fires of inflation, but that we must examine every need and every proposal in order to fix a sensible scale of priorities. Mayo said that he was pleased with a recent conversation he held with George Mahon and was convinced that he intended to be cooperative.

Ford discussed the resolution to disapprove the executive and Congressional pay raise. The 30-day time limit for Congressional veto expires February 13, and so far the Democrats have not organized any committees. Republicans completed committee appointments on Monday. Until committees are organized, the Rules Committee is reluctant to consider a rule to discharge the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee from further consideration of the disapproval resolution. ✓ Dirksen said that he intended to defend the Kappel Commission and the President's Report. Scott said he would support Dirksen. Allott took the position that the procedure established in the 1966 act utilizing a commission was an abdication of Congressional responsibility. He also objected to the imbalance between pay levels for Members of Congress and those for Members of the Supreme Court. Mayo said the cost was \$35 million. Mayo said that it would be best not to revise the personnel ceiling imposed during the last administration but to plan to live under it. He said further that there would be no effort to present a completely new budget document to the Congress. Ford said that the cost of the raise called for by President Johnson would be only \$31 or \$32 million. RMN said while there was no logical justification for the differentiation between the Supreme Court salary and Congressional salaries on the basis of time and work performed, his experience with the recruitment program to staff the new Administration shows the need to increase salaries to levels more comparable to those in industry. ✓ RMN said that it would be necessary to send a message to Congress, probably this week, asking for re-enactment of the Reorganization Act on the theory that a new President should have the same opportunity as the old President to put the house of the Federal Establishment in order.

P Burns, Counselor to the President, explained his plan to formulate an overall legislative program. He said that he was drawing upon the GOP Platform, Nixon pronouncements during the campaign, Task Force recommendations, letters and telephone calls from Members of Congress and Members of the Cabinet. However, he emphasized that his staff is sifting all recommendations and trying to bring them into accord with the President's general political philosophy. Agnew discussed the need to gain the initiative in a program of oceanography and marine development, including development of costal zones, deep sea mineralogy and ecology, offshore oil exploration and extractions, etc.

RMN is still considering the advisability of a formal State of the Union message. The decision will will not be made until he has discussed it further with the Leadership.

Mitchell made a comprehensive report of the need for prompt action in the anti-crime field for the District of Columbia. He said that in the field of law enforcement, the basic tools are the criminal laws already on the state statute books and the chief federal function is to help upgrade local law enforcement through the mechanism of the LEA. The District of Columbia needs to be made a showcase of enlightened law enforcement. In that regard, he said that the Department of Justice would deal with the function of law enforcement and leave principal responsibility for social problems to other departments. He cautioned against the indiscriminate use of military troops in the District, except as a last resort, in order to avoid the image of a national police apparatus. He focused upon personnel as the primary problem. The Judicial Conference has requested 67 new judges in the nation at large, and Mitchell will recommend several new judges for the District. Recruitment procedures must be upgraded. Court procedures must be streamlined. The quality of defense must be improved and the Department might consider an enlargement of the public defender office in the District of Columbia. He said that an intermediate Appellate Court system might be erected to take the strain off the Circuit Court of Appeals. Correctional institutions are in bad shape. He mentioned particularly Lorton and suggested that this facility might be incorporated in the U. S. Prison System. In response to questions from Bill Cramer, Mitchell said that they would use

the wiretap authority granted in last year's omnibus crime bill, that he would support reform of the Bail Reform Act of 1966 and that he would support the concept of a minimum mandatory penalty for the use of a firearm in the commission of a federal felony. He said that leadership must be brought to bear to increase citizen involvement in the war against crime and that perhaps the Citizen Crime Commission in the District of Columbia could be assisted under LEA.

RAN said that it would be necessary to ask for additional money for crime control but that the most important thing was to instill a new attitude and a new determination to make certain that justice is indeed swift, fair and effective.

P.S. The Leadership accompanied the President to the Rose Garden, where his staff made a presentation of a beautiful 6-months old Irish Setter.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Determined to be an Administrative Marking SD 5/19/2010

While my notes are still warm, I am setting down some of the items discussed at the meeting today (Dec. 16) which may require further action or argument by you.

RTH



Bryce announced that RN will meet Demo. legislative leaders during week of Jan. 27.

During week of Feb. 3, RN expects to meet with ranking ~~GOP~~ members of committees, in separate House and Senate groups. Receptions for new members of House and Senate were set for week of Feb. 10, but this was advanced to week of Feb. 17 when someone raised question of Lincoln Day recess.

RN said he wants Members of Congress to get to know his Cabinet choices, especially John Mitchell and "that Agriculture fellow." Suggested they meet with Senate GOP Policy luncheon on Jan. 7. GRF raised question of inviting them to Conference bkfst. RN suggested 6 bkfst. with 2 Cabinet members at each. Wilson suggested dividing up Cabinet officials at tables with Members of their cognizant committees, or other special interest in their departments. No firm decision reached on House procedure. COMMENT: RN idea good except in double billing one will always outshine the other. As to Wilson's idea, who's going to assign tables? Committee members will get to know their Cabinet guy soon enough -- it's actually other MCs that need to get acquainted with them at the take-off. I think each Cabinet chief should get his own breakfast, to which whole Conference is invited. At one per week this would take until April; at two per week it could be finished in February, if we started right off Jan. 3.

RN introduced John Whitaker (sp?) who will be Secty. to the Cabinet, not yet announced.

Bryce said Eisenhower practice of White House leadership meetings would be followed; almost every Tuesday morning, 8:30 to 10 a.m. and said ideal number would be not more than 3 or 4 from each body. RN said attendance by his staff people would be limited to Harlow and his 2 assistants for legis. liaison plus Herb Klein, and that other WH staff would not attend except to give presentations. GRF said he thought as many of the Congressional leadership as practicable should take part because their special contacts needed to round up Demo. votes, etc. RN added that, of course, ranking GOP members will be added when subject matter warrants. Said he would "leave it to Ev and Jerry to determine who you want to bring -- you take the heat if you don't invite 'em and the credit if you do." COMMENT: This leaves you right where you didn't want to be, but RN did concede that the House presents a rather different problem from the Senate and left the inference that Ev and you need not necessarily use the same yardstick or numerical total. As a practical matter, since all the House leadership (except H. Allen) was present, it is going to be extremely difficult to exclude anybody and, as RN clearly left it up to you, I don't see any reason why you should. As for staff, it is simply a question of saving your time and that of the other members of the House leadership. If no staff from the Congressional side is present, it will be necessary for you and/or other members of the leadership to sit down after each meeting and brief your staff or, in the alternative, for Bryce and his assistants to take up each step of the follow-thru personally with the Members. This of course heavily ~~weights~~ the scales in favor of the Executive Branch. I do not for a moment believe that the differences of attitude and political interest between the Administration and the Congress are going to disappear just because a Republican occupies the White House. I do not think two additional staff people, one from the Senate and one from the House, sitting quietly on the sidelines are going to clutter up these meetings; on the contrary, I believe they will enable them to accomplish their intended results more rapidly and efficiently. (Since the emphasis is on limiting bodies, I can foresee the suggestion that John Fisher could sit in for both; but I think we need go no further than today's press conference to prove that the differences between Senate and House leadership are not going to disappear either on Jan. 20 and that both bodies must be independently represented at the staff level, or not at all.)

I don't intend to push myself personally here, but I think there is a sound principle involved. Over the past 3 years, by listening in to the exchange of views and the decision making process at the House leadership, Policy and Conference sessions, at the Joint Leadership meetings and the Coordinating Committee meetings, those few key staff people involved were able to translate these ideas and issues into action and spread them throughout our particular staff circles immediately and without waiting for further marching orders from our immediate principals. The result has been a degree of consistency and harmony among Republican voices which, while not 100% perfect, has been unparalleled in my political memory. This whole Republican apparatus on the Hill still exists, and those voices are still going to speak. It seems to me if the Nixon administration, whether through Bryce's organization or Herb Klein's, doesn't take those of us who have set this up into their planning and take advantage of what has already been done, they are going to spend several years doing it all over again. Surely they know that you and Ev, and the other Senators and Congressmen who are in the leadership, are not going to have the time to spend personally running around and following through on all these details. And they ought to know that no staff guy on the hill is going to take their word that his boss has agreed to something in a meeting at the White House without checking it out, all of which chews up precious time. But they have, through a long and painful process, come to accept my word that this is what Jerry Ford wants and it isn't even necessary -- and sometimes won't be advisable -- to say that the President also wants it. I guess all this adds up to my conviction that you, as Republican Leader in the House, are going to have to stand up for certain prerogatives vis-a-vis the Senate Leader and vis-a-vis the Executive Branch, right from the start, not because of pride or anything like that but because you know, better than anybody downtown can ever know, how to make this institution work, and what we are really interested in is results. It is a whole new ballgame, but we don't need to start from scratch. What has worked ought to be adapted and incorporated rather than discarded, and as the initiator of much of this Republican teamwork in the House you can best plead the case for collaboration and continuity.



2 - Leadership mtgs
830-10 Tues am
almost every week

3 or 4 from each have
Prize
Prisoners - Has
N. Below seen
other W & staff not there
by Herb Klein

GRF - as many lobbying
as pract - we need
as many to get Klein
votes -

RN - will add ranking
comm them on
subject matter

leave it to E & C
Jerry to det who you
want to bring / you
take the heat if you don't
wrt to credit of you do

King - committee
Cary Ireland

RN - Call on Mc... to
give City officers
a hand

WR 27 Jan - 9:30
Pres
GOP Conv - H/S Sp
wk
Feb 3 ✓

new people sent to
Feb 17

Gen Pol Luchow
Rep Conf
Have Calm come
week of Jan 6
Sun 7th - Tues 7th

GRF - Conf bldg
RN - 6 bldgs (2 lchs)
want get to know
Mitchell
agrie fellow

Wilson - Divide
em up at tables
acc to interests

John Whitaker
Secty to Cab - not aware

- 3/ - be or ①
- ② Personnel
- ③ Press Rel's
- ④ Legal approach

RN
good men for Cong
Mason jobs
There are good jobs -

Scott - Civil Service says
RN - See long talks w
J Mann see long listening

2. Transition
RN - Prize set 1st the
program not til 1954 -
SFX moved quite a program
let you -

Loomis - TF starts
August - one had ttt
button on - now have 21
maybe 2/3 more - over
by early Jan -

- 1. Rep those feasible
under existing authority
- 2. Alert to Swords
of planimals - union
contracts, etc.
- 3. Define alternatives

W/ will meet w Lab
Sector -
none in security
areas - Plol, Def & M

Rd - will not be published
what we can do going to
be limited by budget -
very diff PR problem
what city needs is an
adm that doesn't pass
very much in way of w
up programs -

Hickson - Carry list cattle
get a little fat on em
friends fight to stop
expansion

RN - anybody got a card
for dir CEO

GRF - ought to digest by
must create impression
that were doing something

RN - Want it too long
to make record to me
on in 1970 - sounds
a lot by change of
adm tone -

Agnew - much should not
be to make room for
what should be done

5 Rhodes - Hoover
Common

RN - Ray Ark - Pres
Lifton had - studying
functions of govt - dev
some plans - priorities

Rhodes - block out
future programs when
funds available

Craver - post 75
dry prog - water poll -
don't need more money,
just reorg
Kuchel - air & water poll
major of programs

RN
Reorg with lapse
Dec 31 -

RN - I think we
need it - will they
do it -

Old one of 49 genes
more auth
McChesney

RN
slawson - Sawyer
who's our man?

we are reorg ^{via Caban} ^{4 up} ^{up} ^{up}
WA net up - NSC with
Curbatts -



RN - mil - something with
out to stay out

RN - agree - own
feeling hate by Rep
instructor - times
Chavez - don't make
him a martyr

~~Abraham~~
letter soliciting advice

RN - know who had
apples are - soon

If you know them
go right to Cal off

perim continuing
process

Bob Wickman
all remaining
members of the
to 395-6915

also who should stay

Faird
Lipscomb & Sanders

RN - need Southern
names - Mex stations

V. GRT - Pay increase
Pres, VP & Sphr out
of comm jurisdiction
LBJ told Rappell, not
RN - would submit
must be app by long before
Jan 20
Sugg (for Sphr?) LBJ incl
prop for Pres, VP & Sphr,
other 2 covered by least
under suspension of rules
100-200,000 for Pres
67,000 for VP & Sphr

Summit / I will not say
or or or -
compt out of it -

Rule 22 - slave to Sen

Powell? Harriet Klausner
record - the funds
Handley can
kept of what was - del
Been visited twice
HR from 100 members
will stand /

Sup et how taken
pursd. of appeal
Wilson - reathim
with deduction of funds
over 2 yr period



to Harlow. 5 testicles
let go of any one of
em

bal budget
Mays / if VN & surtax
continues
hold your breath budget
Commitments have all
been made, no flex
to a little more, but
have to start 72-73
right now. Each lab
member asked for our
priorities. Can cut surtax
at earliest poss time
- lets' not forget tax
red as one of our
goals - lets' not recon
also ourselves to debt
that goes up every year.

RN - Great Chr Paul Robley
1975
Cont surtax
assumes cont
of VN at p level

185
no surtax
don't want to get tied
into their budget
Murphy - I way
at - hold spending
which these not done

7/ road -
87.5 million
underest in welfare
coming in Jan

RN - all Cat - are able
to paint or complete
clean carvans -

Can't put City in total
spin while cleaning
up mess - don't want
to come to 70 w Econ
going down -

Agnew - too much language
with party & war / must
retain flex - have to
wait awhile

RN - need for me
to abstain from altho
on mess we have
wants objective
evaluation of where
we stand on budget
etc

RN before we get in
year-end report
what we need is a long

8) St of Union

also prob abroad -
CRF - we have a little
easier problem on
Sen side - we know
as less partisan
than I - 6/21/

Mel - again they're
not going to fund
VN all the way

EW - I still love her
Rhodes Pol study on def post
Dixie Clyde Stern

W. D. ~~son~~ need defensive line

RN - use some new men
more in Sec than Sen

no honeymoon for Clean
left - got to keep them
from getting into line

Confirmation hearings
start 1st week
try to get before many

RICHARD H. POFF
6TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOME ADDRESS:
RADFORD, VIRGINIA

JOHN T. WHITE II
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 3, 1969

*Dick/
OK with minor changes,
Thanks
RRF.*

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is a draft of the minutes of the first meeting of the Leadership meeting at the White House on January 28.

Pardon the omissions and inaccuracies. Next time, knowing in advance that the minutes should be formalized, I will take more precise notes.

I am sending a copy to Bob Hartmann.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


RICHARD H. POFF

Copy to Bob Hartmann

Enclosure



SUGGESTIONS FOR WHITE HOUSE AGENDA, January 28, 1969 (Phoned to Timmons 1/24)

MR. FORD (No particular order of priority)

1. Timetable of upcoming legislative requests from President.
2. Urge President to push for reorganizational authority renewal.
3. Will President Nixon appear for second State of the Union?
4. What are Administration views on Electoral College reform?
5. Machinery for personnel and patronage recommendations.
6. Machinery for Congressional liaison with Minority and Majority.
7. Advance notification of Republican Members on awards, press releases, etc.

MR. ARENDS (No particular order of priority)

1. Administration views and strategy on Pay Increases.
2. National Emergency Strike legislation and related Labor law policy.
3. Hoover-type Commission and renewal of Reorganizational Authority.
4. Administration plans to elect a Republican 92nd Congress.
5. Timing of legislative requests, with emphasis on winning the first one.

MR. ANDERSON

1. Routing of Presidential Messages and Executive Communications
2. Administration views and strategy on Pay Increases.

MR. RHODES

1. Hoover-type Commission and renewal of Reorganizational Authority.
2. Congressional (GOP) participation in process of setting Priority Goals.

MR. TAFT

1. Guidance on the community self-determination problem.
2. Administration policy on Foreign Aid.
3. Co-ordination of Research procedures.

MR. WILSON (No recommendations)

MR. SMITH

1. Problems and procedures within the House Rules Committee.

MR. CRAMER (Sick abed, left message with Mrs. Cramer.)

MR. POFF

1. Electoral College reform; advocates go-slow attitude on specifics.

RTH



Mr. Ford ^{1/28/69}

① Feb. 18th (tentative)

Bi-Partisan

meeting at White House



② Cong Reception →
Feb. 19th + 20th

③ Meeting with senior meetings &
working members
Substantive - When?

②

Surplus Property disposal -
bi-partisan legislation on
broad (not specific) basis.

Personnel ceiling?

Do NOT revise - live with

Budget - not a whole new
document

no major inquiry -
Supplementals -

| new ideas - new directions - less cost
held down



③

Rholes / Tapp - response
Housing.

Permissible legal ceiling



Pay -

Reorganization - message this week

Legislative program -

Task Force - ideas / no commitments

Cabinet - 2 weeks

Beving - operation

1) G.O.P. platform

2) Task Force recommendations - shifting

3) Cabinet

4) Congress

④

State of Union - no final decision but
programs will be coming

Anti - Crime - basic tools on state books
a) appointments -

swift / fair

new attitude
urgency

