

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

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Notes	Democratic leadership, 1/23/68 Conf. 5 p. [sanitized - placed in open file on 4/25/86] <i>open 8-2-88 per NLS 83-13</i>	1/23/68	A
Tom Johnson's Notes of Meeting, Box 2			

FILE LOCATION

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JANUARY 23, 1968 - 8:30 a.m.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Speaker John McCormack  
Congressman Hale Boggs  
Senator Robert Byrd  
Joseph Califano  
Barefoot Sanders  
Postmaster General O'Brien

Mike Mansfield  
The Vice President  
Senator Russell Long  
Congressman Albert  
Mike Manatos

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 23, 1968

4:30 p. m.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: <sup>TJA</sup> Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of your meeting with the Democratic Leadership on January 23, 1967, in the Mansion with the following people:

Speaker John McCormack  
Congressman Hale Boggs  
Senator Robert Byrd  
Joseph Califano  
Barefoot Sanders  
Postmaster General O'Brien

Senator Mike Mansfield  
The Vice President  
Senator Russell Long  
Congressman Carl Albert  
Mike Manatos

The meeting began at 8:30 a. m. The meeting ended at 9:45 a. m.

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BY DCIF ON 11-25-72

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NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING  
WITH  
THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

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January 23, 1968  
Mansion

The President said U.S. forces are moving in reinforcements to prepare for a major concentrated attack around Khesanh. The President said that the Communists are making a major build up in this area.

The President described the capture this morning of a U.S. communication ship off the coast of North Korea. He said confidentially that early reports indicated that several U.S. Navy personnel had been wounded as a result of the incident. There may have been shots fired. The ship was surrounded by North Korean boats and forced to port. He said this could develop into a major international problem.

The President said the U.S. Government and the South Vietnamese government are doing all they can to get Hanoi to discuss peace. "Hanoi changed from would and could to will talk, but they will not say when. They will not discuss anything but North Vietnam. They will not talk unless we cease all military activities. We must know what ceasing all military activities really means."

The President said the U.S. Government thinks it has caught the Soviets paying off some of the anti-war people in this country.

The President said U.S. troops crossed into Cambodia yesterday trying to protect themselves. There was no way to avoid this in effort to save their own lives. The Vice President said he was sorry that Secretary Rusk had to apologize for the incident. The President said it is really a question that we cannot violate even one inch of territorial integrity.

The President said there could be a major upsurge in infiltration in the next quarter. The increased intensity of enemy activity indicates a major effort. Intelligence reports show a great similarity

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between what is happening at Khesanh and what happened at Dien Bien Phu. The President said there is no firm indication that North Vietnam will back down on any of its conditions.

The President said that there is a rapid deterioration of the strength of the Viet Cong. They are having to replace their manpower with North Vietnamese. The current campaign is a short-term surge effort designed to gain political advantages.

The President reviewed the last 48 hours. Reports show that a full scale attack on Khesanh is imminent. There also is a strong possibility of attack on Camp Carroll and multi-battalion attacks on Danang. In addition, country-wide terrorism is expected with attack on Pleiku and enemy violence in and around Saigon.

The President said he expects to send a message on Disarmament to the Congress today. "We have reached agreement with the Soviets on this." (The President later decided to send this message up Wednesday)

The President said he wanted the Democratic Leaders on the various committees to go over the messages very carefully. He said they would be invited to the White House for full discussion of the messages before they are sent to the Congress.

The President said he has named Henry Ford, II to head the Concentrated Employment Program. The President read parts of the Job Message, pointing out there is "a new social consciousness among businessmen in this country today."

The President then read a later CIA report on the ship captured by the North Koreans.

The President then outlined the domestic schedule of messages. That schedule, although very tentative, is as outlined below:

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SEP 12 1967

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MESSAGE SCHEDULE

<u>Message</u>	<u>To Congress</u>
State of the Union	1/17
Jobs	1/23
Civil Rights	1/24
Arms Control and Disarmament	1/25
Budget	1/29
Consumers	1/30
Education	1/31
Economic	2/1
Crime	2/5
Foreign Aid	2/6
Health	2/7
Veterans	2/8
The American City (Housing)	2/13
The American Indian	2/14
Foreign Trade	2/15
Protecting Our National Heritage	2/19
Sports	2/20
Maritime	2/21
The American Farmer	2/26
The Nation's Capital	2/28
D. C. Budget	2/29

*Revised these and  
get them up  
before the  
20th (Wash  
& day)*

The President asked that both the House and Senate get together on the schedule so that we will know precisely what days on which to send messages and other items to the Congress.

The President said he wants a short session. "We are going to shove these messages to you as early as possible as requested by Senator Mansfield. I have told the Cabinet to get all the messages to you by March 1."

The President said we are in a "dangerous situation" on the balance of payments. He said he received two confidential foreign reports yesterday which indicated that these two countries are losing confidence in our fiscal situation.

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The President said the Congress must be careful in its talk.  
"If you cannot say the tax bill will pass, don't say anything."

The President said Chairman Mills indicated he would pass the Balance of Payments Program. Mills called Secretary Fowler yesterday after the testimony to tell him "It was the best presentation ever made before his committee."

The President urged the Congressmen to minimize attacks on their own Party. The President also said that he and the Vice President would do what is necessary to raise money for the Congressmen and Senators, including a dinner in April if they wanted one.

The President urged quick action on consumer bills.

The President urged action in the House on the following items:

Pipeline Safety. We would like to have Commerce Committee complete its hearings promptly and request a rule. A major consumer item.

Truth in Lending. We would like to get a rule on this bill as soon as possible and get it to the floor. It is not scheduled for today's Rules Committee meeting. Can it be set for Rules Committee hearing next Tuesday, January 30 and if a rule is granted brought to the floor the following day. The principal issue on the floor will be revolving credit, as you know. A major consumer item.

Fire Research and Safety. Pending on the House calendar and we would like to have it scheduled for early debate.

Highway Beautification. We are going to have to face this sometime. We would like to have a rule granted so that the bill can be held on the calendar and brought up for floor debate about the time your message on "protecting our natural heritage" goes to the Hill. We will need the Leadership's help with Chairman Kluczynski in getting him to request a rule, and with Rules Committee in obtaining a rule.

Export-Import Bank. This is ready for floor debate. We will have trouble with some amendments but there will be a conference. Can it be scheduled next week?

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Federal Jury Reform. This is in House Judiciary and could be moved out without a hearing, since hearings were conducted last year. There should not be substantial opposition to it.

Interior Committee. This can be a productive session for conservation measures if Chairman Aspinall's Committee will act on the bills before it:

Apostle Islands - passed Senate  
Redwoods - passed Senate  
North Cascades - passed Senate  
Scenic Rivers - passed Senate  
Central Arizona - passed Senate  
Pennsylvania Avenue Commission -  
passed Senate

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