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March 14, 1968

MEETING NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

March 5, 1968  
In the Mansion

Attending the meeting were:

The President	Lawrence O'Brien
The Vice President	Joe Califano
Speaker John McCormack	Mike Manatos
Senator Mike Mansfield	Marvin Watson
Senator Russell Long	Barefoot Sanders
Congressman Carl Albert	George Christian
Congressman Hale Boggs	

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The President thanked the House for the Gold Cover Bill. He said that the Senate looks good on the bill, with the tally showing 15 or so against and 47 for, with many uncommitted.

The President reviewed briefly the "serious" financial and budget situation and copper strike.

The President and the leadership reviewed this House schedule for the week:

1. The San Rafael Wilderness Conference Report, left over from last session ... controversial, but a major conservation success if enacted. "We hope the leadership will be able to muster solid Democratic support for it on the floor," the President said. Congressman Albert replied: "We will get a good vote. I don't think it will be beat."

2. The National School Lunch Act Amendments, including the Child Nutrition Bill. The President said there seems to be no major controversy, but Congressman Albert said that there is "a little concern" about this one.

3. The Arms Control Authorization Bill, for \$33 million appropriation over a three year period. The President noted that the Republicans will offer an amendment to reduce the length of the authorization to 2 or even 1 year, and said he hoped this amendment could be defeated. Congressman Albert said that this will be tough, and that Congressman Findley will make a move to cut off funds for the non-proliferation treaty.

4. On the Civil Rights Bill pending in the Senate, the President said, "Once the bill has finally passed the Senate we would hope that the House leadership can schedule it promptly for Rules Committee consideration.

"We would like to have a rule making it in order for the House to concur in the Senate amendments to the House passed bill and so worded so that only one House vote will be needed - similar to what was done for House concurrence for the 1957, 1960 and 1964 Civil Rights bills."

Congressman Albert reported that Jerry Ford had indicated he had reservations about the Bill, but did not say he was against it. Speaker McCormack said that Ford will be under pressure to pass it.

The President asked how much help may be expected from Republican leaders outside the Congress. Mike Manatos reported that Richard Nixon had made some calls at Senator Percy's request during the Senate debate, but without much success. "The only votes we got were those we got ourselves," Manatos said.

Other matters discussed at the meeting:

1. Gold Cover - The President said he hoped that this bill, which has passed the House, will be passed by the Senate in the same form. It contains a small amendment which if adopted would require House concurrence, and the President hoped this could be deleted. "We had a close vote on final passage, 199 to 190, in the House, and want to avoid any further House action," the President said.



Senator Mansfield said Senator Sparkman is confident he can pass the House version. The President asked Mansfield to talk to Senator Proxmire and get his help.

2. Consumer Legislation -- (Reviewed by the President)

Fire Research and Safety - enacted.

Truth in Lending. In conference. We hope that both House and Senate Leadership can urge the conferees to start meeting soon. Mrs. Sullivan wants to hold out for a garnishment provision which was in the House bill. This is essentially a minor issue and should not be allowed to delay conference approval of this major bill.

Pipeline Safety. Passed Senate. House Commerce Subcommittee hearings continue.

Poultry Inspection. House Agriculture Subcommittee has concluded its hearings. We would like to have full Committee approval soon and early action by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Hazardous Radiation. House Commerce Subcommittee approved the bill for full Committee action yesterday, Monday, March 4. We would like to have early House Committee approval.

Wholesome Fish. Pending in House and Senate Commerce Committees. Senate hearings are tentatively scheduled for early April. We need House hearings set.

Dangerous Drugs. House Commerce Subcommittee has concluded its hearings. Pending in Senate Labor Committee; no hearings scheduled.

Auto Insurance Study. House and Senate Commerce Committee hearings are tentatively set for mid-March.

Boat Safety. Pending in House Merchant Marine Committee. Not yet introduced in Senate but hearings are tentatively scheduled there for May 7.

Electric Power Reliability. Pending in Senate Committee and House Commerce Subcommittee. Hearings have been held.

Mutual Fund Reform. Senate Banking Subcommittee hearings held. House Commerce Subcommittee hearings begin March 12.

Deceptive Sales Act. Senate Commerce Subcommittee hearings underway. Pending in House Commerce; no hearings set.

Hearings on all appropriations are underway or scheduled in the House and in the Senate except in those cases where the Senate will wait until the House completes action.

We have 22 major authorization measures. Hearings are underway or set on most of these.

3. Rules Committee - "With the shortage of business on the House floor we would like to get rules on these bills soon," the President said. But on Highway Beautification, the President said that if the Republicans are going to oppose it, "maybe we ought not bring it out." He said he did not want to see it cut all to pieces on the floor. The President then asked if he was incorrect in his assessment that most in Congress now favor cutting expenditures. Both Congressman Albert and Larry O'Brien agreed that the prevailing attitude is to cut.

4. Tax Bill - The President asked Senator Long if he could finish the excise tax bill today. Long said he could not, but can have a one day hearing before Senate Finance. The President commented that Secretary Fowler had said nobody on the Committee would help him except Long.

5. Health Legislation.

The President suggested that Senator Long have hearings on drug prices. Long said he agreed, "That you pay about 100 times the cost of manufacture."

6. Government Reorganization. The President said Senator Ribicoff wants to set up another Hoover Commission to reorganize the government. The President said he suggested we may want to appoint an executive commission, but "you lose control of these things." At the Congressional Commissions, the President said members don't attend meetings.

"Could we satisfy him by appointing a task force and putting him on it? I would like to appoint 11 -- 2 from the House; 2 from the Senate; 3 from the Executive and 4 from the public."

Discussion of this idea was inconclusive.