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DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDING
23, 1958, 10:00 AM

By WAC SEE DATE 2-11-58

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP MEETING

February 4, 1958

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Postal Rates and Pay - In a long discussion of the situation concerning postal legislation, Sen. Carlson cautioned against trying to couple in one bill both the rate increase and pay raise. If that were done, he said, the opposition might write in a much larger pay increase than was proper, and that could be very embarrassing to the President. The President said he would not be embarrassed. On the contrary, he would be most concerned with what this Republican Party would look like.

P. L. 480 - Sen. Dirksen pointed out the interest of a number of farm-State Senators in having budgets other than Agriculture's charged with the costs of certain things done under the P. L. 480 program. Secretary Benson was very anxious to have this done, and cited figures (which Mr. Morrison, Bureau of the Budget, immediately questioned) pretending to show that only 15% of the P. L. 480 proceeds went to Agriculture. Much of it should be charged, he said, to the Mutual Security program. The President asked for a quick report of accurate statistics, and also pointed out to Sen. Benson that where we sold products below the market price, a loss occurred which is directly chargeable to Agriculture.

Outer Space Program - A question was raised as to whether a new Space Agency should be set up within Department of Defense (as provided in the pending Defense appropriation bill), or be set up as an independent agency. The President's feeling was essentially a desire to avoid duplication, and priority for the present would seem to rest with Defense because of paramountcy of defense aspects. However, the President thought that in regard to non-military aspects, Defense could be the operational agent, taking orders from some non-military scientific group. The National Science Foundation, for instance, should not be restricted in any way in its peaceful research.

Dr. Killian had some reservations as to the relative interest and activity of military vs. peaceful aspects, as did the Vice President who thought our posture before the world would be better if non-military research in outer space were carried forward by an agency entirely separate from the military.

There was some discussion of the prospect of a lunar probe. Dr. Killian thought this might be next on the list of Russian efforts. He had some doubt as to whether the United States should at this late date attempt to press a lunar probe, but the question would be fully canvassed by the Science Advisory Committee in the broad survey it had underway. Dr. Killian thought the U.S. might do a lunar probe in 1960, or perhaps get to it on a crash program by 1959. Sen. Saltonstall had heard, however, that it might even be accomplished in 1958, if pressed hard enough.

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Dr. Killian outlined for the Leadership the various phases of future development (along the lines of the subsequent press releases listing projects in the "soon", "later," and "much later" categories.)

Sen. Knowland complained about having to get his information about Space research from the Democratic Senator from Washington (Jackson) -- which was just as bad as having to learn from Mr. Symington anything there was to know about the Air Force.

The President was firmly of the opinion that a rule of reason had to be applied to these Space projects -- that we couldn't pour unlimited funds into these costly projects where there was nothing of early value to the Nation's security. He recalled the great effort he had made for the Atomic Peace Ship but Congress would not authorize it, even though in his opinion it would have been a very worthwhile project.

And in the present situation, the President mused, he would rather have a good Redstone than be able to hit the moon, for we didn't have any enemies on the moon!

Sen. Knowland pressed the question of but trying along with a lunar probe, because of the psychological factor. He recalled the great impact of Sputnik, which seemed to negate the impact of our large mutual security program. If we are close enough to doing a probe, he said, we should press it. The President thought it might be OK to go ahead with it if it could be accomplished with some missile already developed or nearly ready, but he didn't want to just rush into an all-out effort on each one of these possible glimmer performances without a full appreciation of their great cost. Also, there would have to be a clear determination of what agency would have the responsibility.

The Vice President reverted to the idea of setting up a separate agency for "peaceful" research projects, for the military would be deterred from things that had no military value in sight. The President thought Defense would inevitably be involved since it presently had all the hardware, and he did not want further duplication. He did not preclude having eventually a great Department of Space.

Presidential Disability Legislation - When Sen. Dirksen noted that a good many proposals were floating around the Senate, the President recalled that Mr. Rayburn had said that for his money there would never be a bill.

The President went on to say that he had been working with the Vice President on the matter. Of course, there would never be any reason for disagreement between them on this, but it seemed desirable to work it out in the best interests of the country -- on a personal basis. In addition, the President continued to want something on the statute book.

Mr. Rogers commented on one proposal on which he was consulted. It provided for an 8-man Commission, including the Vice President, Speaker, Majority and Minority Leaders. Mr. Rogers said he had had to comment

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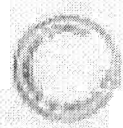
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that this was clearly unconstitutional unless done as a Constitutional amendment. He didn't think it a desirable change since it would transfer power from the Executive to the Legislature.

LAM
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