

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1963,  
AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (H-202) OF THE HOUSE  
MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

Members:

Senator Dirksen  
Congressmen Miller, The Presiding Officer, Arends,  
Byrnes, Ford, Brown

Absent: Senators Saltonstall, Morton, Hickenlooper, Kuchel  
Congressmen Halleck and Wilson

Also Present:

Staff: Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire,  
Robert Allett, Mark Trice

Just prior to the arrival of the Chairman, Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. and the following agenda was announced for consideration:

National Debt Limit

Gold Flow

Other Legislative Matters

National Debt Limit

Senator Dirksen stated that the fact sheet having been read to the Membership last week he would not re-read it. He then proceeded to read the prepared statement. There was a brief discussion of the statement and a suggestion by Congressman Byrnes to change slightly the phraseology in paragraph 2.

Gold Flow

Senator Dirksen then proceeded to read the second prepared statement and after suggestions by Congressmen Brown and Byrnes and Senator Dirksen several minor changes were made. Both statements were then approved.

Legislative Matters

Congressman Brown asked for recognition and stated that he wished to call to the attention of the group information he had recently received to the effect that more money would be requested by the Administration for the United Nations before the Easter recess. He stated that so far as he could appraise the situation there was in the country a rising tide of opposition to the U. N. operation and that sooner or later he thought that it would be necessary for the Party to take some position in the matter. He also stated, and it was confirmed, that up to March first the United States had put up 48% of the Congo operation.

Senator Dirksen raised an inquiry as to what legislation might be up before the House between now and Easter. Congressman Brown stated that he looked for action on the Export-Import Bank Bill. The Military Pay Bill would not be considered until after Easter. The Youth Opportunity Bill, the Mass Transportation Bill and the Medical Facilities Construction Bill were about ready to be considered but that as of yesterday no rule had been requested. It was also stated that the Military Public Works Bill would not be considered before Easter.

It was stated that the House would take an Easter vacation from the 11th to the 22nd.

Senator Dirksen raised a question in regard to the operation of the House Task Force and it was stated by Congressman Ford that the group had been meeting regularly. Senator Dirksen stated he was interested because when the money bills came to the Senate he hoped to have the Republicans stand firm on the House cuts both in the Appropriations Committee and on the Floor.

Congressman Byrnes stated that any Debt Ceiling legislation would not take place before the middle of May and so far as Taxes were concerned, nothing would be done before that time.

There also was brief discussion as to what might happen with regard to the proposed Expense Accounts Regulations.

Congressman Ford stated that in his opinion the first Appropriation Bill to be considered would be the one relating to the Department of the Interior and the second one would be the Treasury-Post Office Appropriation Bill.

There was a brief discussion in regard to any change in the law relating to the purchase of silver and Senator Dirksen expressed doubt that there would be enough votes in the Senate for the repeal of the existing law if anything was requested.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

*J. Mark Tice*  
Acting Secretary