

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTIETH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1964,
AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (S-230) OF THE SENATE
MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Members: Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Morton
Congressmen Halleck, Brown, Byrnes, Arends, Ford

Absent: The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller
Senators Hickenlooper and Kuchel
Congressman Wilson

Also Present: Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire,
Robert Allett, Mark Trice

Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Viet Nam

Economics

Geriatrics and other Legislative Matters

Viet Nam

Congressman Halleck, before reading his prepared press release on this subject, referred to a Leadership meeting with President Kennedy at the start of the Viet Nam problem and to the fact that the President stated he would call another meeting on the subject but one was never called. He asked the question, "Are we keeping faith with the American people?" By not letting them know the true facts of the matter, the results are that they are not conditioned for it. Senator Dirksen agreed that the facts in Viet Nam should be disclosed to the American people. Congressman Halleck then read the statement, which was approved. A copy is attached.

Economics

Senator Dirksen first read the fact sheet on this subject and then the prepared press statement. Congressman Byrnes suggested that paragraph 5 be rewritten to show the great dangers of inflation. New language was substituted and the statement approved. 1A copy is attached.

Geriatrics and other Legislative Matters

Senator Dirksen submitted for the record a letter from McGeorge Bundy in regard to the nuclear testing statement which had previously been approved by the Leadership and sent to the White House. Attached were letters from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

There was a brief discussion concerning reaction to the recent statement by the President and Khrushchev concerning a cut in nuclear armaments, as well as what information might be available concerning the possible railroad strike.

Mr. Halleck replied that insofar as the reduction in nuclear armaments was concerned, there must be inspection in order that we would be protected. He also stated that there was no solution to the railroad problem, the only alternatives being government seizure or company arbitration and that it was his understanding that the railroads wanted the latter.

The Civil Rights matter was briefly discussed and Senator Dirksen referred to his amendment concerning enforcement.

Senator Dirksen raised a question concerning increases talked about for beneficiaries under the Social Security Act, with the statement that Senator John Williams thought any increases should be offset by an increase in the tax. Congressman Byrnes stated that the House Ways and Means Committee was now holding Executive Sessions, exploring the whole situation. It was suggested that some figures be put together and that the subject be brought up at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

J. Mark Tice.
Acting Secretary