

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR THURSDAY,
AUGUST 1, 1963, AT 9:15 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
(S. 230) OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

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

Absent: The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller

Also Present:

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

In the absence of the Chairman, Senator Dirksen called the meeting
to order at 9:20 A.M. and the following agenda was presented:

Test Ban Position

Senator Dirksen stated that there would be no press conference and that
he hoped all of the Members comprising the Leadership would approve the
statement on the Test Ban Position which would be released to the press.
Senator Dirksen then proceeded to read the prepared statement on this subject.

A number of questions were raised, among those being the position of
the Joint Chiefs of Staff, how classified information could be revealed,
that hearings on the treaty be held in open sessions, the previous position
of President Eisenhower and the results of the last Soviet and United States
tests. It was stated that if the treaty was good for America it should be
approved and if it was not, then it should be opposed. The statement was
also made that solid reasons should be advanced if there is to be a vote
against it.

Senator Hickenlooper stated that the "sticky" questions were Depository
and Recognition and both were discussed briefly. He also stated that
apparently hearings by the Committee on Foreign Relations would not be held
for several weeks.

Bryce Harlow suggested that the statement include a clarification of President Eisenhower's position.

There was general agreement that alterations would be made in the text of the statement to accommodate all views.

Senator Dirksen raised a question as to what might be the situation on Civil Rights legislation in the House. The replies received were somewhat uncertain but it was thought that Civil Rights legislation would not be reported until the tax bill had been reported out. Congressman Byrnes thought that the Ways & Means Committee would be through with the bill by the 9th and that it should be ready for Floor consideration by the 19th.

A copy of the approved statement is attached.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

J. Mark Trice.
Acting Secretary