

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR JANUARY 24, 1961, AT  
10:00 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER,  
SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Senators Dirksen, Bridges, Saltonstall, Morton.  
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Brown and Hoeven.

Invited to the meeting but not present:

Senator Kuchel and Representative Byrnes of Wisconsin

Also present: Bryce Harlow and Mark Trice

Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and stated that the purpose of the meeting was for organization purposes.

Mr. Harlow distributed to those present a typewritten agenda comprising four pages, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

Senator Dirksen stated that if there was no objection he would ask Senator Morton to act as Temporary Chairman, and he requested that Mark Trice take notes of the meeting.

After a discussion as to the proper title for the Chairman of the meeting it was unanimously agreed that the term "Presiding Officer" would best be used and Senator Morton was elected as Presiding Officer.

There was general agreement that all decisions made at the meeting would be made by the Leadership of both Houses of the Congress and not by the Republican National Committee.

The various matters listed on the agenda sheet were then followed and acted upon.

Attendance: The Senate was to be represented by four members and the House of Representatives by five. The Republican National Committee would be represented by the Chairman.

It was generally agreed that from time to time when occasion demanded guests would be invited to attend the meetings. Suggested guests were Senator Goldwater and Congressman Miller, perhaps former President Eisenhower and former Vice President Nixon as well as ranking Minority Members of the various Congressional Committees.

Senator Saltonstall suggested that the same form be followed as in previous White House meetings in regard to "no votes", and after some discussion it was agreed that the two spokesmen for the meeting would be Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck, with the understanding that other members of the committee would say nothing.

Staff: In regard to the question of staffing the Committee, after discussion it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of Senators Dirksen and Morton and Congressman Halleck, with the hope that the matter could be decided before the next meeting. It was generally agreed that whatever staff was required would be paid by the Republican National Committee as a result of a specific contribution for the project, that the staff employees would be on the payroll and employees of the Republican National Committee, and on loan from them.

Time of Meeting: It was agreed that the meeting would be held each week at 8:30 a.m. and take place the day after the meeting of the President with the Democratic Leadership.

It was tentatively agreed that Wednesday would be the meeting day but that Senator Dirksen would attempt to firm up the matter with Senator Mansfield. With the uncertainty of the White House meeting day the matter was left subject to call.

It was agreed that breakfast would not be served but that coffee and buns would be on hand.

Place of Meeting: It was agreed that the meetings would be held in some room in the Capital building. The next meeting and for the month of February the meetings would be held in the office of the Senate Minority Leader and for the month of March in the office of the Minority Leader in the House. Then the meetings would alternate monthly between the two Leaders.

It was suggested that inquiry be made concerning the possibility of obtaining a room in the new addition on the East Front to be known as the "Joint Minority Leadership Room" where the meetings could take place in the future. Mark Trice was requested to make inquiry concerning available rooms on the Senate side which might be used for staff purposes.

Staff: There was general discussion concerning the qualifications of a person to act as Staff Director as well as the availability of such a person. It was decided that Senators Dirksen, Morton and Congressman Halleck should look further into the matter and recommend to the Committee a person with the qualifications desired.

Agenda: It was decided that prior to each meeting all members would be called for suggestions as to what should be taken up at the next meeting and then an agenda sheet would be prepared after the two Leaders had approved it.

Senator Bridges raised a question about the enlargement of the group to include Senator Goldwater and Congressman Miller, respective Chairmen of the Campaign Committees. After discussion it was decided to leave the matter fluid and open for determination at a later time.

It was decided that in order to obtain the best press coverage the two Leaders would arrange to see the Press at 10:00 o'clock each morning of the meeting whether or not the group had concluded its business for the day. The Members present were in agreement that at the press conference Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck should have full and free latitude in informing the press as to matters taken up and decided at the meeting.

At the suggestion of Bryce Harlow the question of salary for the Staff Director was not decided upon as it was thought best to find the desired man first.

It was suggested that Mark Trice of the Senate and Harry Brookshire of the House of Representatives be present at the meetings and it was approved.

Mr. Harlow submitted to the group several copies of progress reports of the previous administration for the years 1953 through 1960. The material was quite voluminous and Senator Dirksen stated he would ask Art Burgess of the Policy staff to go through it for the purpose of consolidating the reports in order that they might be published as a public document.

Mr. Harlow also informed the membership as to his negotiations in regard to legislation dealing with the retirement rights of former President Eisenhower as a five-star General.

Congressman Halleck, in reply to a question concerning the Rules Committee fight in the House, spoke of the action on the part of the Republicans there to oppose the change and he stated that there is a possibility that they may be successful in their fight.

He also spoke of the conservative nature of the 21 newly-elected members of the House.

Senator Dirksen spoke of what he thought was the necessity of monitoring TV and radio shows and he thought that the job could be done by

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the staff of the Republican Policy Committee of the Senate.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

*Mark Fricc.*

Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Presiding Officer  
January 30, 1961