

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR FEBRUARY 2, 1961, AT  
9:00 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER,  
SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Morton, Kuchel  
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Hoeven and Brown

Members of the meeting but not present:

Senator Bridges and Representative Byrnes of Wisconsin

Also present: Mark Trice and Harry Brookshire

The Presiding Officer, Senator Thruston B. Morton, called the meeting  
to order at 9:09 A.M.

The agenda for the meeting, as previously agreed to by Senator Dirksen  
and Congressman Halleck, is as follows:

1. Staff Director and staff
2. President's State of Union Message
3. President's Press Conference
4. Projected action on key legislative measures

The Presiding Officer stated that in regard to the first item on the  
agenda, namely, Staff Director and staff, after discussion with Senator  
Dirksen and Congressman Halleck it was thought best to withhold any recommend-  
ations in regard to a Staff Director until a later time but that he would  
recommend, as a temporary assignment, "Speed" Nelson, who is presently on the  
staff of the Republican National Committee, to assist with the meeting until  
other recommendations have been agreed upon.

Senator Dirksen stated that he had obtained in his name a room, F-41,  
Senate Wing of the Capitol. This could be used for meetings of the Committee  
or for staff purposes.

House members thought it would be desirable if House quarters could be obtained and the matter was left for them to look further into situation.

It was decided that it would be best to continue the joint meetings in accordance with the past decision of meeting for the first month on the Senate side and then on the House side.

Senator Dirksen raised a question concerning Senator Goldwater and Congressman Miller becoming members of the group. After discussion it was decided that it would be best to let the matter stand for the present and invite them to attend the meetings from time to time when the members deemed it advisable.

Items 2 and 3 were then discussed. It was generally agreed that Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck would stress at the meeting with the press the following three things:


1. Statement of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., special assistant to the President, on a recent TV appearance when he stated that the development of a welfare state in the United States was "the best security" against communism.
2. The recent Rules Committee fight in the House where it was generally known that a deal had been made whereby there would be no Civil Rights legislation at this session.
3. The statements made by the President in regard to the reduction of interest rates and the speeding up of veterans' payments as a boost to the economy. These actions do little in the way of a spur to the economy.

Senator Dirksen stated that he had been informed by Senator Mansfield that the Democratic Leadership would meet regularly at the White House on Tuesday and that the President's press conference would be held on Wednesday but at changing times.

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There was discussion as to when would be the best time to fix the weekly meetings and after discussion it was decided that probably Thursday mornings would be the best time but the matter would have to be played by ear at this time.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Presiding Officer  
February 6, 1961