

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JOINT  
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR MAY 3, 1962,  
AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER,  
THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HALLECK

Members Present:

Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Brown, Byrnes, Hoeven  
Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Hickenlooper, Kuchel

Also Invited to be Present:

Congressman Robert Dole

Staff:

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

Absent:

The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller

In the absence of Chairman Miller from the City Senator Everett  
McKinley Dirksen acted as Presiding Officer and called the meeting to  
order at 9:36 a.m.

The following agenda was presented for consideration:

Billie Sol Estes Scandal

Legislative Matters

BILLIE SOL ESTES SCANDAL

Congressman Halleck read the previously-prepared fact sheet in regard  
to the Billie Sol Estes Scandal. At the conclusion of the reading of the  
statement, Bob Humphreys presented for the information of the group  
certain other matters which had not been included, namely, personal  
pictures, autographed copy of PROFILES IN COURAGE, purchase of suits for  
Agriculture employees, contributions by Estes to the Democratic Party,  
the possibility of heavy contributions to the pre-convention campaign of  
Lyndon Johnson and the rumors of certain cash payoffs.

The discussion which followed dealt primarily with the right method  
to pursue in this matter, whether by a joint committee of the Republican

members, a demand for a full Congressional investigation or by constant needling until some action is taken.

At the conclusion of a long discussion Senator Dirksen then read the previously-prepared press release on the subject and after one or two minor changes the statement was approved.

Congressman Halleck then read a second previously-prepared press statement on the subject. A paragraph or two at the beginning of the suggested statement was eliminated because of a possible reflection on the farmers of the country. Also included was a brief statement by former President Eisenhower, giving his approval to the proposed investigation.

The two statements were then approved as amended and a copy of each is attached hereto.

#### FARM BILL

In response to a question as to the Farm Bill, Mr. Hoeven replied that it was pretty well messed up and that in his opinion the present farm program would be extended.

#### EISENHOWER VISIT

There was general discussion concerning the meeting next Thursday with former President Eisenhower. It was agreed that the meeting was all set with an early morning breakfast of President Eisenhower, Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck, a meeting later with the Members of the Joint Leadership, a press conference and luncheon.

There is to be a briefing of the issues with President Eisenhower and Messrs. Humphreys and Harlow on the previous afternoon.

#### LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Congressman Byrnes expressed the opinion that the Medicare bill would remain in the committee as there were three or four democratic

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votes against it. It was stated that the House Conferees were very much opposed to the scholarship provisions in the Aid for Higher Education bill.

Congressman Hoeven stated that he would prefer to see the Senate act first on the Agriculture bill and he had suggested to the Chairman of the House Committee that their committee lay it aside and start hearings on the Sugar bill and then return to the farm legislation after it passes the Senate.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

  
Mark Fure.  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Acting Presiding Officer  
May 7, 1962