

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR MAY 11, 1961, at 8:30 a.m.
IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, CONGRESSMAN
CHARLES A. HALLECK

Members Present:

Representatives Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Brown, Hoeven
Senators Morton, Dirksen, Bridges, Saltonstall, Kuchel

Also Present:

Robert Humphreys, Mark Trice, Harry Brookshire, Robert Allett

Absent:

Bryce Harlow

The Presiding Officer, Senator Thruston B. Morton, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and informed the Members that a Life photographer would be present to take "candid shots" during the meeting.

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

Geneva Conference on Nuclear Testing

Minimum Wage

Senate Policy Committee Participation

Before the Chairman proceeded with the morning's agenda, Senator Bridges asked Congressman Halleck about the chances of defeating the Federal Aid to Education bill in the House. Congressman Halleck stated that the chance of beating the bill in its present form "is good." General discussion of the Education legislation followed for a brief period. Senator Bridges brought up a method to finance the Education bill that had been discussed among some of the Senators. This method would divert one cent of the Federal Excise tax on cigarettes to meet the cost of the Federal aid to Education law enacted.

Congressman Brown said Mr. Bow of Ohio offered such an amendment last year, which was adopted by the House on a Teller vote but subsequently defeated on a Roll Call vote.

Senator Kuchel expressed the opinion the Senate would pass a Federal Aid to Education bill this session. Congressman Halleck conceded there would probably be a school construction bill passed but doubted if the House would pass an Education bill involving funds for teachers' salaries. There was also limited discussion as to the possibility of passing a Powell amendment to the Education bill.

Other than this general discussion, the Joint Leadership did not agree on any strategy or procedure relating to Federal Aid to Education legislation.

Geneva Conference

Senator Dirksen read his statement for today's Press Conference regarding Geneva Conference on Nuclear Testing and after general discussion by the Joint Leadership it was approved. Copy of this statement is included at the end of these minutes.

Senator Morton commented the statement was a "good statement" and people in general will agree with it, and added the public is getting tired of the soft position that has been taken at Geneva in dealing with the Russians and the Nuclear Testing Ban. It was generally agreed that the United States should stand for a definite time limit to work out a satisfactory solution to this nuclear testing problem and put an end to the Soviet's "stall" on the matter. Senator Dirksen added that since Mr. Kennedy has never asked for a time limit on the Geneva negotiations it might be good for American prestige if the United States would demand such action now.

Minimum Wage

Congressman Halleck read his statement for today's Press Conference relating to the Minimum Wage bill recently approved by the President, and pointed out again to the Leadership that Mr. Kennedy had failed to live up to his campaign pledge on Minimum Wage. Congressman Halleck added, the American workers would eventually realize they had been deceived, particularly when they find that the \$1.25 an hour will not show up in their pay envelope until 1963. After general discussion the Leadership approved the statement which is also included at the end of these minutes.

Senator Kuchel suggested that the Joint Leadership should devote one meeting to tax and budget matters.

Congressman Brown of Ohio also suggested some study should be made of President Kennedy's Reorganization Plans that he is sending to Congress. Congressman Halleck suggested to Congressman Byrnes that this matter might be discussed at the next House Policy Committee meeting, Tuesday, May 16th.

The Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m. in order for Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck to proceed with their 9:45 a.m. Press Conference.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer