

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR
AUGUST 2, 1961 at 2:00 P.M. IN THE OFFICE OF SENATE
MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Members Present:

Senator Saltonstall
Representatives Halleck, Miller, Brown, Byrnes, Hoeven

(Senators Dirksen, Bridges and Kuchel were detained at
official luncheon and arrived just as the meeting concluded.)

Members Absent:

Representative Arends

Also Present:

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

The Presiding Officer, Chairman William E. Miller, called the meeting
to order at 2:04 P.M. and the following agenda was presented for consideration:

Congressional Budget Excesses

Hanford Project

The Chairman stated that due to the temporary absence of Senator
Dirksen he would ask that Congressman Halleck present his statement on
the Hanford Project. Congressman Halleck read the prepared background
sheet together with a prepared press release and after brief discussion of
the matter suggested that a slight change be made by substituting the word
"opportunity" for "chance". The Chairman asked if there was any objection
to this statement as presented and there being none it was approved with
the suggestion that Senator Kuchel be consulted concerning it if he returned
in time. Attached is a copy of the background sheet and statement.

Congressman Halleck stated that he did not know what could be done but
there was apparently some understanding which existed among the Democratic

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conferees that conference reports would be first acted upon by the branch of the Congress which was most favorably inclined. Several reports which should have been acted upon first by the House had been acted upon by the Senate, thereby placing the House in a more difficult situation to disagree to the report.

Mr. Halleck also read to the group the resolution recently passed by the House Policy Committee concerning "back-door" spending in the Foreign Aid bill. It was suggested that if the opportunity presented itself at the Press Conference this resolution might be read.

In the absence of Senator Dirksen the background analysis in regard to the Congressional budget excesses and the prepared statement to the press was read by Mr. Humphreys. After brief discussion the Chairman asked if there was any objection and there being none, the statement was approved. Attached is a copy of the background analysis and the prepared statement.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.



Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
August 16, 1961