

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1964, AT
9:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (H-202) OF THE HOUSE
MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

Members: Senators Dirksen and Kuchel
Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Ford

Absent:

The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller
Senators Saltonstall, Morton, Hickenlooper
Congressmen Brown, Byrnes, Wilson

Also Present: Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire,
Robert Allett, Mark Trice

Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. and stated
that the agenda was as follows:

Lack of Viet Nam Policy

LBJ Economy "Snow Job"

Other Legislative Matters

LACK OF VIET NAM POLICY

Senator Dirksen proceeded to read the prepared press release on this
subject. Several minor changes were made and the statement was approved.
A copy is attached.

Congressman Arends stated that he had concluded from Secretary
McNamara's statements before his Committee that the Administration will
play the situation by ear until after November. He thought that the
last sentence should include words to the effect that the Administration
should tell the truth and the facts to the American people.

LBJ ECONOMY "SNOW JOB"

Congressman Halleck then read for the information of the Members a
previously-prepared fact sheet on this subject. After minor changes the
statement was approved as read. A copy is attached.

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OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS


Congressman Halleck stated he had talked with the Speaker regarding when the House might recess for the Republican National Convention and from what he had gathered it looked as though it might be possible to recess from July 3 until July 20.

Congressman Halleck stated that the House had only two appropriation bills remaining, namely, Foreign Aid and Public Works.

Congressman Halleck raised a question as to how best the Republicans in the House might present their side of the story to the Resolution Committee of the Republican National Committee. After discussion it was agreed that a special meeting of the Membership would be called for next Tuesday morning at which time Congressman Laird would be invited.

The Civil Rights bill was briefly discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.


Acting Secretary

Since November 1, 1963 South Viet Nam has had 3 different governments (Diem, Minh and Khanh) and the United States has had two (Kennedy and Johnson). The fall of the Diem government grew out of the Buddhist-Catholic controversy that stirred up in May 1963 and the engineering of the coup has been laid at the feet of the Kennedy Administration. In the spring of 1963 the top-up of the Viet Cong was supposed to be well under way but the military situation has deteriorated ever since because of the insistence of Washington of equating political reform with the struggle.

More recently there has been growing criticism of U.S. military policy as well as political policy in South Viet Nam. With an American force in excess of 15,000 military personnel on the scene in "advisory" and "training" roles, the United States to date has suffered nearly a thousand casualties with those killed totalling in excess of 200, more than half of whom were killed in combat.

A series of articles by Scripps-Howard reporter Jim G. Lucas from South Viet Nam has accused the Defense Department of giving our personnel outmoded and inadequate equipment and of being more interested in training Americans in guerrilla warfare than in helping the Viet Nameese extricate themselves. Without denial from the Defense Department Lucas declared "We've run 35,000 to 40,000 American personnel through the mill here in three years," contending the personnel work in the field for four to six months, then are pulled into Saigon for a staff job and returned home at the end of a year. He wrote that he talked to one Viet Nameese battalion commander who had "no less than 11 U.S. advisers in 2 years" each of whom "wanted to change something basic in the way the battalion was being run." He contends that the Viet Nameese morale has hit bottom.

Desertions from the Viet Cong to South Viet Nam which reportedly were running heavy a year ago have now been reversed. The morale picture has not been helped any by repeated statements starting with President Kennedy on May 23, 1963 that the United States planned to withdraw troops from the area.

Now with the defection of Cambodia from a pro-American position and with the Communist re-invasion of Laos, the deterioration has reached a grave state, so grave in fact that the Administration (Rusk) on May 22 publicly is talking about "expanding the war."

[May 26, 1964]

HOUSE CUTS

<u>Article</u>	<u>House Estimate</u>	<u>Passed House</u>	<u>Cut</u>
Dist. of Columbia (Federal Payment)	\$ (357,702,300) 53,220,000	\$ (338,205,200) 40,720,000	\$ 12,500,000
Interior	1,055,678,000	1,023,175,600	32,502,400
Treasury-Post Office	5,271,991,000	6,225,420,000	46,571,000
Legislative	222,587,355	173,626,640	48,960,715
Labor - HEW	7,561,968,000	6,908,063,000	653,905,000
Defense	47,471,000,000	46,759,267,000	711,733,000
State-Justice-Commerce	1,957,764,700	1,702,627,800	255,136,900
Agriculture	5,588,922,600	5,182,665,000	406,257,600
Independent Offices	14,244,685,400	8,118,965,500*	925,719,900**
Military Construction	1,879,000,000		
Public Works			
Foreign Aid			

TOTAL CUTS = \$3,093,286,515

*\$5.2 billion NASA appropriation not passed as to point of order.

**Represents difference between House Estimate and what passed the House and assumes that \$5.2 billion NASA appropriation will not be cut.

LEJ BUDGET REVISIONS

	1964		1965	
	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Current</u> (in billions)	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Current</u>
Spending	\$98.4	\$96.3	\$97.9	\$97.3
Income	88.4	89.5	93.0	91.5
Deficit	-10.0	- 8.3	- 4.9	- 5.8