

FOR THE SENATE.

Everett M. Dirksen, *Leader*  
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*of the Policy Committee*  
Leverett Saltonstall, *Chr*  
*of the Conference*  
Thruston B. Morton,  
*Chr. Republican*  
*Senatorial Committee*

PRESIDING OFFICER  
*The Republican*  
*National Chairman*  
William E. Miller

# THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

## Press Release

Issued following a  
Leadership Meeting

September 18, 1963

FOR THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Charles A. Halleck,  
*Leader*  
Leslie C. Arends, *Whip*  
John W. Byrnes, *Chr*  
*of the Policy Committee*  
Gerald R. Ford, Jr.,  
*Chr of the Conference*  
Clarence J. Brown,  
*Ranking Member*  
*Rules Committee*  
Bob Wilson,  
*Chr. Republican*  
*Congressional Committee*

### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### STATEMENT BY REP. HALLECK:

The White House has announced that President Kennedy will address the Nation tonight on his proposal to cut taxes on borrowed money while increasing spending by the Federal government. Obviously the President feels his personal appeal is necessary because of the established opposition of the American people to cutting taxes without cutting spending proposals, and by constantly adding new proposals.

We think it is important for the American people to realize that top leaders in Mr. Kennedy's own political party have the most serious doubts about the fiscal course he proposes. Within the past week Representative Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the tax-writing House Committee on Ways and Means, and Representative Clarence Cannon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, have publicly made statements critical of the President's determination to increase Federal spending at a time when he is asking for a tax cut.

Mr. Mills, arguing that a tax cut is a better road to economic stimulation than increased spending, put it in a nutshell in behalf of the Congress when he said: "We want it understood that we don't intend to go along both roads at the same time." Mr. Cannon was even more specific when he said in a speech to the House:

"...We should take advantage of every opportunity to make every reduction (in appropriations), in every place possible. There is ample time in which to do it...There is no legitimate excuse not to do it...The President will have to submit lower budgets. The machinery is at hand. All we need is the will."

Both of these Committee Chairmen are members of Mr. Kennedy's own political party and there are scores of other responsible Demo-

(more)

crats in Congress who have the same doubts about Mr. Kennedy's spending.

Congress so far has passed only two major appropriations bills totalling \$7 billion. Ten more appropriations bills representing an original \$83 billion in budget requests await complete Congressional action. We agree with Representative Cannon that "there is ample time" in which to do the necessary cutting in spending to put a tax reduction on a fiscally honest basis.

Frankly, we find Mr. Kennedy's economic theories mystifying, particularly in view of his own curious legislative record when he was a member of Congress. In the Republican 80th Congress, when we initiated a \$5 billion tax cut after putting President Truman's budget in balance by cutting his spending, Mr. Kennedy, then a member of the House, cast five votes on the legislation and he voted against a tax cut every single time.

Again, in the Republican 83rd Congress, when we initiated a \$7.1 billion tax cut, after chopping \$10 billion out of the budget inherited by the Eisenhower Administration from President Truman, Mr. Kennedy opposed the tax cut, announcing that although he was paired, "If I were at liberty to vote, I would vote nay."

In considering President Kennedy's plea to the Nation, we think the American people should ask themselves how their President justifies his opposition on six occasions to tax cuts when spending had been drastically reduced, but now favors a tax cut when spending has been skyrocketing.

(President Kennedy's tax cut voting record follows Senator Dirksen's statement)

(Dirksen statement - page 3)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DIRKSEN:

September 18, 1963

When President Kennedy broadcasts his appeal to the Nation tonight for support for a tax cut, we hope he will lay all the cards on the table, including these:

I. While Mr. Kennedy is proposing the Federal government give the American people an \$11 billion tax break with one hand, he is also advocating immediately borrowing the money back from them with the other hand, to meet the increased cost of his skyrocketing programs which he refuses to cut.

II. As a result, Mr. Kennedy is further proposing that the national debt be increased by an amount approximating the size of the tax cut, or to put it another way, we will be borrowing nearly \$11 billion from our children so we can make it easier on ourselves while Mr. Kennedy goes right on increasing spending. In short, Mr. Kennedy proposes to let the next generation hold the bag.

Is it any wonder that every sample of public opinion for a year now -- including both the Gallup and Harris polls -- shows the American people do not favor a tax cut based on this kind of fiscal juggling? Obviously the President now knows this and that is why he is going to attempt to persuade the American public otherwise in his broadcast tonight.

There is a simple solution to Mr. Kennedy's dilemma and we Republicans have suggested it repeatedly. Call a halt to runaway spending! Hold the line!

We Republicans favor a tax reduction. We have been the sponsors of the only two major tax reductions in modern times. We will vote for this proposed tax cut if Mr. Kennedy will join the members of Congress -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- in seeking a substantial reduction in planned outlays for existing Federal programs and those authorized but not yet started. Leading members of his own party in Congress favor it.

If Mr. Kennedy wants public support for a tax cut, if Mr. Kennedy wants Congressional support for a tax cut, then the President should actively help to cut spending now and he will get a tax reduction bill this year by a landslide vote.

VOTING RECORD OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON TAX REDUCTION BILLS

80th Congress:

H.R. 1

An estimated \$4 billion tax cut with relief from heavy wartime burdens to all income taxpayers with the largest percentage reduction to be enjoyed by those with incomes of \$1,000 or less.

Passed House on March 27, 1947

Yeas: 273 Nays: 137 Not Voting: 22 MR. KENNEDY: NOT VOTING

Passed Senate on May 28, 1947

Vetoed by Truman on June 16, 1947

Failed of passage over veto in House on June 17, 1947

Yeas: 268 Nays: 137 Not Voting: 24 MR. KENNEDY: NAY

H.R. 3950

Same as H.R. 1, only to go into effect six months later

Passed House July 8, 1947

Yeas: 302 Nays: 112 Not Voting: 16 MR. KENNEDY: NAY

Passed Senate July 14, 1947

Vetoed by Truman July 18, 1947

Passed House over veto July 18, 1947

Yeas: 299 Nays: 108 Not Voting: 23 MR. KENNEDY: NAY

Failed of passage over veto in Senate July 18, 1947

H.R. 4790

An estimated \$5 billion tax cut with 71 percent of the tax relief going to those with incomes under \$5,000; 7.4 million wage earners in the lowest brackets removed from the tax roll; married couples allowed to divide their income for tax purposes and special relief for persons over 65 and the blind.

Passed House February 2, 1948

Yeas: 297 Nays: 120 Not Voting: 12 "present": 1

MR. KENNEDY: NAY

Passed Senate, amended, March 22, 1948

Vetoed by Truman April 2, 1948

Passed House over veto April 2, 1948

Yeas: 311 Nays: 88 Not Voting: 32 MR. KENNEDY: NAY

Passed Senate over veto April 2, 1948 (Public Law 471)

83rd Congress

H.R. 8300

Congress by a series of steps allowed the wartime excess profits tax to expire; reduced excise tax rates approximately 50 percent; permitted personal income tax rates to drop 10 percent; and passed H.R. 8300 granting an additional \$1.5 billion reduction for a total overall reduction of \$7.1 billion, the greatest tax reduction in American history.

Passed House March 18, 1954

Passed Senate, amended, July 2, 1954

Yeas: 63 Nays: 9 Not Voting: 23

\*MR. KENNEDY: NOT VOTING

Approved by Eisenhower August 16, 1954 (Public Law 591)

\*From the Congressional Record of July 2, 1954: When his name was called, Mr. Kennedy said: "On this vote, I have a pair with the senior Senator from Alabama (Mr. Hill). If the senior Senator from Alabama were present and voting, he would vote 'yea.' If I were at liberty to vote, I would vote 'nay.' I withhold my vote."