

FOR THE SENATE

Everett M. Dirksen, *Leader*
Thomas H. Kuchel, *Whip*
Bourke B. Hickenlooper, *Chr*
of the Policy Committee
Leverett Saltonstall, *Chr*
of the Conference
Thruston B. Morton,
Chr Republican
Senatorial Committee

PRESIDING OFFICER
The Republican
National Chairman
Dean Barch

THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Press Release

Issued following a
Leadership Meeting

September 3, 1964

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 1964 Democratic Convention has come and gone and with it the American people now find themselves presented with a political hoax that will go down in history as the year of "plenty amid poverty" and "poverty amid plenty."

Few will forget the maze of oratory, all the way from the President down to the declaimers on the Democratic platform, who in one breath told us we had never had it so good and in the next told us we were surrounded by misery.

It is about time the American people woke up. For 32 years Democratic candidates for President have traded on human misery each election year for political purposes and in the final analysis they have evidently solved nothing in this respect. In 1935 Democratic President Roosevelt told us that with a population of 128 million one third, or 43 million, lived in poverty. In 1964, Democratic President Johnson tells us that one-fifth of a 191 million population is living in poverty, a figure not far from 43 million.

In those 32 years the Democrats have controlled Congress 28 of the years and have controlled the White House 24 of the 32 years. Mr. Roosevelt talked about WPA and PWA but the poverty and unemployment continued without abatement until World War II. Mr. Truman talked about "full employment," but poverty and unemployment resumed after World War II until the Korean War. Now Mr. Johnson talks about the "war on poverty" while, according to his own statements, poverty and unemployment continue.

This is political chicanery at its worst. Billions upon billions of dollars are spent each election year by the Democrats in the name of poverty. But nothing is solved. We only pass more debt onto our children and their children. Is war the Democrats' only solution?

The Democratic National Convention, staged-managed from beginning to end, has come and gone, and we and the world are told poverty and unemployment are still with us. We ask a simple question: Why should the Democrats in 1964 get by with 32 years of failure?

(Dirksen statement - page 2)

For three decades the Democrats every four years have issued the "election year tranquilizers" -- things are really better, but they are also bad, so elect us and they'll get better. This year we have a whole new array of election year tranquilizer pills - "Job Corps," "Work-Training Programs," "Work-Study Programs," "Community Action Programs," "Special Programs to Combat Poverty in Rural Areas," "Employment and Investment Incentives," "Family Unity Through Jobs," "Volunteers for America."

My friends, you name it and the Democrats have got it in 1964 if it sounds like it might get a vote -- all for a cheap billion dollars of your money. It's called the "War on Poverty Package." And there is not one permanent durable job in the whole phony bundle.

The Democrats can't even get their statistics straight. On April 7, 1960 Democratic Presidential Candidate Kennedy said 17 million Americans went to bed hungry every night. In January this year, the National Policy Committee on Pockets of Poverty reported 20 million Americans lived in poverty. On January 20, President Johnson put the figure at 35 million -- an increase of more than 100 percent in four years during all of which a Democratic President occupied the White House and Democrats controlled Congress!

Now Mr. Johnson tells us we are going to eliminate poverty by spending \$1 billion this year. Well, the Federal government is already spending \$31 billion a year in relieving hardship and the states are spending \$13 billion more -- a total of \$44 billion. By adding just one more billion dollars, Mr. Johnson says, we will solve the problem of poverty. Does anyone really believe this?

Of course hardship is a concern of all of us and has been throughout the history of this nation. That's why we have manpower training, expanded vocational education and scores of other programs to combat distress. It is a cynical business when we are told in an election year that a one-percent increase in expenditures and a political slogan are going to end poverty.