

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR FEBRUARY 9, 1961, AT 9:15 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER, SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Senators Dirksen and Saltonstall
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Hoeven, Brown and Byrnes

Members not present:

Senators Bridges, Kuchel and Morton

Also present: William Brownrigg III, Harry Brookshire,
Raymond Saulnier and David W. Kendall

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 A.M.

Anti-Recession Proposals

Mr. Saulnier at the request of Senator Dirksen reviewed the general economic situation in the United States, stating that we began a mild recession in the middle of 1960 with the major part since November. We should reach the bottom in March, then go up with the outlook for 1961 good. Kennedy has proposed the following new anti-recession measures: extension of unemployment compensation, aid to dependent children, raising of minimum wage and advancing of interstate highway funds. It was agreed that Kennedy could have had a \$1.15 minimum wage last year but he wanted \$1.25 or nothing. Also that Republicans should attempt to prevent unnecessary legislation in this area which would have an adverse effect on our economy. To make sure we do nothing that will dampen down the recovery process.

Missile Gap

The recent Pentagon reports that there is no missile gap is in direct contradiction of Kennedy's campaign statements that there was an ever-widening missile gap was discussed. Senator Dirksen stated that he planned to ask Defense Secretary McNamara in a letter for a direct answer to the question. It was agreed that this matter be pushed.

Balance of Payments and the Gold Depletion

It was agreed that Administration proposals to halt the gold drainage be watched closely. Congressman Halleck suggested one Kennedy proposal whereby foreign depositors in the United States banks receive a higher interest rate than United States citizens might be considered a kind of "bribe" and should be discouraged. It was agreed that we should do everything possible to encourage more exports and that the Kennedy Administration be challenged to do as well as the Republican Administration did in 1960, an increase of exports of 3 billion.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

William Brownrigg^{III}