

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR FEBRUARY 23, 1961,  
AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY  
LEADER, SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

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

Members of the meeting but not present:

Senators Bridges, Saltonstall and Morton

Also present: Mark Trice, Harry Brookshire,  
Rollis Nelson and Bryce Harlow

In the absence of the Presiding Officer, Senator Truston B. Morton,  
Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order. Discussion started at 8:35 A.M.

The agenda for the meeting, as previously agreed to by Senator  
Dirksen and Congressman Halleck, is as follows:

1. Legislation

- a. Unemployment Compensation
- b. Farm
- c. School
- d. Distressed Areas

2. Proposed legislation re Migrant Labor

Congressman Halleck started the discussion concerning legislation  
relating to unemployment compensation which is now before the House  
Committee. He stated that they would probably report the legislation  
tomorrow. He also stated that this subject had been discussed by the  
House Republican Policy Committee on Tuesday. He read to the meeting a  
statement which he had prepared and which is attached hereto.

After discussion of the matter and the various changes that the  
Committee might make in the legislation, it was agreed that the prepared  
statement should be read to the Press.

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Congressman Halleck also stated that Congressman Powell is moving his committee very rapidly insofar as the minimum wage bill is concerned.

Congressman Brown expressed the opinion that the House will pass a bill on this subject this year.

Senator Dirksen stated that Senator Mansfield had set a target date of July 31 for adjournment and insofar as he could see an effort was being made to rush not only the hearings on this bill but speed up all legislation. He expressed the hope that the House can pass a bill similar in principal to the old Senate bill.

Congressman Hoeven stated that the feed grains bill would be reported out of the subcommittee today and that legislation to extend the sugar act would be speedily enacted. The extension would be for 21 months and included would be the Eisenhower provision in regard to quotas for the Dominican Republic.

Congressman Hoeven spoke at some length on the provisions of the feed grains bill and stated that while he had some doubts about it, he was willing to give the farmer the benefit of the doubt. Its aim was to raise farm income and at the same time appeal to the tax payers with a net savings of \$500 million.

Senator Dirksen stated that in his opinion wheat must be included in any legislation and the total agriculture situation worried him, particularly insofar as next year is concerned. The Senator read a prepared statement on the general subject of agriculture but it was agreed that all comments would be reserved at this time.

Congressman Brown suggested that now is the time to say something to the Press concerning the action of the House Rules Committee in refusing to approve for action two measures pending before it.

Senator Dirksen informed the Committee that he had talked with Senator Goldwater in regard to the latter's desire to meet with the group.

It was agreed that when desired the meeting should invite House and Senate senior members of the various committees when there was up for consideration a particular piece of legislation. After discussion it was thought it would be best to limit the appearances to the senior member of the Committee or some other member of that committee if the senior member invited him to appear.

In response to a question of Congressman Halleck in regard to the committee staff, Senator Dirksen stated he had suggested another name to the Presiding Officer and that in all probability Senator Morton would report to the group next week.

Senator Dirksen asked what the House was doing in regard to the school bill. It was the opinion of all that the Administration bill had not been introduced. Senator Dirksen stated that at the present time there are five individual bills pending before the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee. Senator Dirksen read a general statement on the subject and it was decided that it would be best not to take a position at this time.

The subject of distressed areas was briefly discussed and it was decided to await further committee action before a statement might be made.

Senator Kuchel asked if any information was available in regard to P.L. 478 on migrant labor which expires June 30. Congressman Halleck stated that he had heard nothing on the subject.

Senator Dirksen stated that he had talked with Arthur Flemming in general concerning the school bill, Flemming stated to him that the college recommendations were very bad. It was thought best for him not to appear before the committee but it was suggested that Bryce Harlow contact

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him and obtain any information he could in regard to his opinion regarding the legislation.

Senator Dirksen stated that in the recent recommendations which the President made in regard to the legislative program the subject of civil rights was not mentioned. He stated that he intended in the next week or two to perfect and offer legislation on the subject.

Senator Dirksen called to the attention of Congressman Halleck that the meetings of the group for the month of March would be in his office and that the notices, agenda and other matters pertaining thereto would be his responsibility.

A question was raised concerning a place for holding the Press conference and it was requested that the Old Supreme Court Chamber be obtained if possible each Thursday morning.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

*Mark Trice.*

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Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Presiding Officer  
February 27, 1961

We support the proposal to temporarily extend the Unemployment Compensation Benefit program.

We are concerned about the plight of those unemployed who have exhausted their Unemployment Compensation benefits and we believe that steps must be taken promptly to provide additional relief.

Conditions which have developed since last November call for enactment of a temporary program to extend Unemployment Compensation benefits to exhaustees.

We believe that the cost of this program should be defrayed by a temporary increase in the Federal unemployment tax rate sufficient to repay advances by the Federal Treasury in as short a time as is reasonably possible.

This method of financing the program was supported by the administrators of State Unemployment Compensation systems before the Ways and Means Committee.

This program should be enacted and put into effect as quickly as possible. We trust the majority party will avoid including in such legislation areas of possible controversy in order that prompt enactment may be assured.