

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF MARCH 9, 1961, at 8:30 a.m.
IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, CHARLES A.
HALLECK

Members Present:

Representatives Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Hoeven, Brown.
Senators Morton, Dirksen, Bridges, Saltonstall. Also present:
Bryce Harlow, Mark Trice, Harry Brookshire, Rollis Nelson

Members Absent:

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Guests Present:

Senator Barry Goldwater, Chairman, Republican Senatorial Campaign
Committee.

Guests Absent:

Congressman William E. Miller, Chairman, Republican Congressional
Campaign Committee - due to illness.

The Presiding Officer, Senator Thruston B. Morton, called the
meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

As previously agreed to by Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck,
and the other members present at the March 2nd meeting, the agenda for this
meeting would be devoted to general discussion of the political situation by
Senator Goldwater and Congressman Miller. Mr. Miller being ill was absent.

Before proceeding with the political discussion, the Presiding
Officer reported further on Robert Humphrey's available services and it was
agreed the Presiding Officer should work out the details with Humphrey and
finalize his employment if possible by the next meeting.

Also, Senator Dirksen reported that a compilation of the Eisenhower
Administration achievements from 1953 through 1960, and based upon documentary
facts, had been completed, and although quite voluminous, Dirksen felt certain
he could arrange to have it put in the Congressional Record so that it could
be reprinted for distribution. It was agreed this would be useful for the
future.

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The Presiding Officer also brought up the political angle of the inserts the Veterans Administration has been enclosing with the early payments of the \$258 million 1961 National Service Life Insurance dividends.

Senator Saltonstall discussed the President's "Peace Corps" and reported he had been informed that applicants to the Corps had been instructed to obtain Democratic endorsement. Congressman Brown reported Congressman Broomfield, (Michigan), had written the President about similar reports he had received regarding required Democratic clearance of Michigan Peace Corps applicants in his District.

Senator Goldwater, reporting on his public appearance and speaking engagements around the country since election, said he found great concern over the "soundness of the dollar" and "what is the Republican Party's position?". He reported he also found from the Mid-east to the West Coast a change in the thinking of the Press regarding President Kennedy versus Candidate Kennedy. They are taking another "look at him".

Senator Goldwater said in the areas he had traveled recently he found, despite losing the Presidency, "grass roots enthusiasm" among Republicans "higher than 1952" because of the November victories in Court Houses, Governorships, State Legislatures and Congressional gains, and he was confident of a Congressional victory in 1962.

In discussing that part of the Kennedy program sent to Congress it was generally agreed it did not contain anything that would "create one job" and it fell far short of Campaign Pledges and the Democratic Platform. Senator Goldwater cited as an example the Depressed Areas proposal, which he said he had been charging in public appearance would not help depressed areas. He said the entire Kennedy program for depressed areas "would pump only 5 days employment in the effected areas". He referred also to Minimum Wage as a measure to

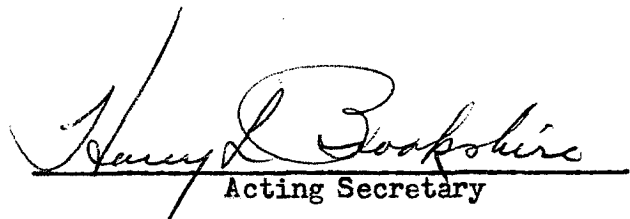
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to help the economy out of the so-called recession. He pointed out the entire amount involved in the Minimum Wage proposal would only pump one and one-half days' wages into the economy and Secretary of Labor Goldberg admitted this when he testified before the Senate Labor Committee.

In discussing the change in position of Candidate Kennedy versus President Kennedy, Congressman Halleck stated that undoubtedly the President feels he should at this time take a more conservative position because he doubts he can get through the Congress many of the platform pledges and campaign promises.

Senator Goldwater observed the Republicans should have a more adequate research staff so that when something of political value to Republicans comes up, a Member "could hit it on the Floor the same day it appears in the press", and he stated "it's time to hit the President hard - it's past due".

After some discussion about the procedure at the 9:45 Press Conference today, the Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a. m.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
March 15, 1961