

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE JOINT  
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1963, AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE  
CAPITOL OFFICE (H-230) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY  
LEADER, THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

Members: Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Morton, Hickenlooper  
Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Brown, Byrnes, Wilson

Absent: The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller  
Senator Kuchel  
Congressman Ford

Also Present:

Staff: Robert Humphreys, Robert Allett, Harry Brookshire,  
Mark Trice

In the absence of Chairman Miller the meeting was called to order  
by Congressman Charles A. Halleck at 9:40 A.M., who announced the agenda  
for the meeting as follows:

Cuban Subversion Menace

The Problem of the National Debt

Discussion of Two Previous Agenda Items

Other Legislative Matters

Congressman Halleck endorsed a check in the amount of \$250.00 and  
turned it over to Senator Morton, Chairman of the Republican Senatorial  
Campaign Committee. The check had been received from a friend of Congress-  
man Halleck's to help defray the expenses of the operation of the Joint  
Leadership Committee.

Cuban Subversion Menace

It was suggested by Mr. Humphreys that due to the length of the fact  
sheet it not be read. Senator Dirksen read the previously-prepared statement  
on this subject and at the suggestion of Congressman Byrnes an insertion  
was approved in the second paragraph to cover "that group which had already  
been trained in Cuba and returned to South America". The statement was then  
approved as read.

Cuba - National Debt

Congressman Halleck stated that there had been prepared another statement in regard to the Cuban situation together with one on the Budget which he would leave up to the Membership as to which one might be approved for the afternoon press conference.

Congressman Halleck then proceeded to read the previously-prepared press release in regard to Latin America and there was some discussion on this subject together with that of Budget Cuts. The prepared statement was then read by him with regard to the National Debt.

The Membership was of the opinion that Congressman Halleck should use the Latin American statement at this time. It was thought that perhaps next week, or at the next meeting, the National Debt statement might be tied in with the Youth Opportunity Bill and the Military Pay Increase Bill.

Copies of the two statements with regard to Cuba are attached hereto as approved.

During the discussion of the second statement on Cuba Senator Hickenlooper stated that he would leave on Sunday with President Kennedy and Senator Fulbright for Costa Rica and he suggested that the statement contain language "recommending that firm action be taken there."

Legislative Matters

Congressman Halleck spoke of the action taken by the Republican Members of the House in the offering of amendments when the Youth Opportunity Bill was in Committee. He also stated that an effort would be made to make the effective date of the Military Pay Bill January first instead of either October first or 30 days after the passage of the bill.

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Congressman Halleck stated that there had to be closer liaison between the Legislative and the Appropriation subcommittees of the House, in order that greater study might be given to the authorization bills.

Congressman Byrnes stated that he thought the Administration could get by with the \$305 billion debt ceiling through May and that it would be 3 or 4 weeks before any action might be taken to raise the ceiling.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

*J. Mark Trice*  
Acting Secretary