

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR MARCH 23, 1961, AT
8:30 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER,
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES A. HALLECK

Members Present:

Representatives Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Brown, Hoeven
Senators, Morton, Dirksen, Bridges, Saltonstall, Kuchel

Also present:

Bryce Harlow, Robert Humphreys, Mark Trice, Harry Brookshire

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

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

Depressed Areas Bill

U.S. Vote in U.N. vs. Portugal

Strategy on Farm Bill

Appearing on June Dinner for
Hon. Arthur E. Summerfield --
Hon. Frederick H. Mueller
Mr. Frank Armstrong

Depressed Areas

Congressman Halleck read his statement on Depressed Areas for
today's Press Conference. A copy of the statement, which was approved,
is included at the end of these minutes.

There was discussion of the Depressed Areas bill, reported out
by the House Banking and Currency Committee. There was general agreement
that the Administration's \$400 million dollar bill as reported would do
little to relieve the unemployment situation in depressed areas. Instead
it would bring disillusionment to the unemployed in these areas. Congress-
man Halleck's statement charged the unfortunate people in depressed areas
were "being treated like a political football" and pointed out the

Administration's proposal would give employment in the depressed areas to only one out of 17 unemployed, and only one out of 37 underemployed in rural areas would be helped. Congressman Halleck said the House Republican Policy Committee is on record favoring change in tax laws to promote new plant construction and in turn create jobs in depressed areas.

U.S. Vote in U.N. vs. Portugal

Senator Dirksen read his statement for today's Press Conference, which was approved, criticizing the vote of our U.N. Representative, Adlai Stevenson, relating to the Portuguese-Congo Colony of Angola. The statement is included at the end of these minutes. Stevenson's vote was on a Resolution urging internal reform in Angola and for the first time in U.N. history the United States voted with the Soviet Union on a losing issue before the Security Council. The votes of Britain, France and other NATO nations defeated the Resolution.

Senator Dirksen's statement also charged President Kennedy made the decision for the United States to vote with the Soviet Union on this Resolution and added the American people and our Allies are due an explanation by the President. Senator Dirksen was of the opinion the U.S. should have abstained from voting.

Senator Dirksen reported on yesterday's March 22nd, briefing of some of the Republican Joint Leadership in Vice President Johnson's office on the Laos situation. Senator Dirksen expressed the opinion the U.S.S.R. is in control in Laos and with the monsoon season coming, any U.S. or Allied military effort would be practically powerless during that period. Those of the Leadership present at the briefing were of the opinion the United States to date has taken a firm stand regarding U.S.S.R. encroachment in Laos, and that was the position that should be taken.

Senator Kuchel inquired as to what the Eisenhower Administration had done in similar situations. Mr. Harlow, former assistant to President Eisenhower, said the Eisenhower Administration had been faced with similar situations in Guatemala, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran and then we stood up against the U.S.S.R. - ready to back up firm and positive statements with action, and thus kept the peace. Senator Saltonstall expressed the opinion "time is of the essence now to avoid another Korea".

Senator Dirksen read from African newspapers reporting on Assistant Secretary of State William's Congo visit. The article indicated his visit there had not been too helpful to U.S.-Congo relations.

There was some discussion of Foreign Policy and there were expressions that the United States should not be the "world policeman" in these trouble spots like Laos and the Congo, instead keeping the peace should be a cooperative effort between us and our Allies.

Strategy on Farm Bill

Due to lack of time the subject of Farm Legislation was passed over, except for Congressman Hoeven's reference to Public Law 480, Surplus Crop Disposal Program, which will be before the Congress shortly. Congressman Hoeven suggested that every Republican House Member should sign a statement favoring P.L. 480 extension in the amount of \$1.1 billion, similar to President Eisenhower's last recommendation and opposing President Kennedy's request for extension in the amount of \$2 billions, thus Republicans could point to a \$900 million savings.

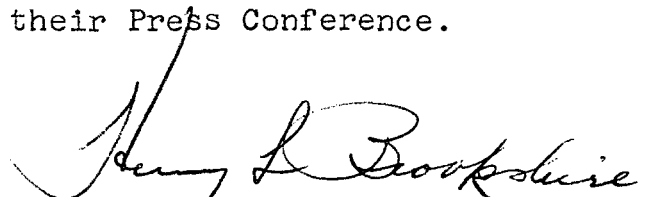
Next Meeting

Because of the Easter Congressional Recess, it was agreed the next meeting would be Wednesday, March 29.

June 1 Republican Rally and Dinner Meeting

The Honorable Frederick H. Mueller, former Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Frank Armstrong and Congressman William E. Miller, Chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, had been invited to discuss with the Joint Leadership the June 1st Republican Rally and Dinner meeting. The Honorable Arthur E. Summerfield, Chairman of the June 1st dinner meeting, was absent due to illness.

At 9:40 the above mentioned gentlemen proceeded with their discussion of the dinner rally and at the same time Presiding Officer Morton adjourned the regular Leadership Meeting so that Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck could proceed with their Press Conference.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
March 28, 1961