

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR APRIL 6, 1961, AT
8:30 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER,
SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Members Present:

Senators Morton, Dirksen, Saltonstall
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Brown

Members of the Meeting but not Present:

Senators Bridges, Kuchel and Representative Hoeven

Also Present:

William Brownrigg III, Harry Brookshire, Robert Humphreys,
Bryce Harlow, Robert Allett

The Presiding Officer, Senator Thruston B. Morton, called the
meeting to order at 8:35 A.M.

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

1. Laos
2. Progress of Kennedy Administration
3. Press Conference Questions

Congressman Halleck questioned the wisdom of holding a meeting and
a press conference at this time under the present circumstances.

Senator Morton reviewed the results of the elections of yesterday
in Illinois, Missouri, Texas, Michigan and Wisconsin. It was agreed the
outcome was not unfavorable to the G.O.P.

Laos

Senator Dirksen discussed the developments in Laos. He stated
that the United States has to date sent 342 million dollars in
Foreign Aid to Laos. Future aid should depend on the outcome of the
present situation.

Too many concessions have been made by Ambassadors Stevenson
and Harriman in this area.

Averell Harriman's statement conceding that there would be a coalition government in Laos was particularly criticized. It was agreed that there would be no prepared release by the Leadership on Laos because of the negotiations now going on between Macmillan and Kennedy. The absence of any briefing or consultation between the State Department and the Republican Leadership was noted.

Progress in Kennedy Administration

Congressman Halleck reported that the price of corn had dropped from \$1.10 to 97¢ under the Kennedy Administration.

It was observed that Kennedy campaign promises were not resulting in legislation.

Bob Humphreys observed that Kennedy had played more golf than did Eisenhower.

Congressman Brown reported that Ohio voters were concerned with the expansive spending proposals of the Kennedy Administration also transfer of military bases in the U. S. was causing further unemployment problems.

Press Conference Questions

Senator Dirksen said no formal press statement would be released at this meeting.

It was agreed not to discuss the John Birch Society at this meeting.

Congressman Halleck discussed the recent comments on the leadership meeting press conferences. Congressman Halleck recalled that President Eisenhower had expressed the hope that this type of meeting continue.

He suggested that a picture be made of the Republican Leadership for publication.

He announced confirmation of a meeting of the Republican Leadership with President Eisenhower on May first at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairman Morton announced the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee and the Republican Leadership would have a luncheon meeting Friday, April twenty-first.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
April 7, 1961