

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR APRIL 12, 1962, AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller

Members Present:

Senators Dirksen, Hickenlooper
Congressman Halleck, Arends, Brown, Byrnes, Hoeven

Members Absent:

Senators Saltonstall, Kuchel

Also Present: Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire,
Robert Allett, Mark Trice

The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller, called the
meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The following agenda was presented for consideration:

'63 budget already out of balance

JFK increases already exceed 1940 cost of government

Other legislative matters

'63 BUDGET

The Chairman recognized Senator Dirksen who read for the information
of the Members present the previously-prepared fact sheet which was
followed by the reading of the previously-prepared press statement on
the subject.

The fact sheet was changed to show a deficit of \$3.8 billion instead
of \$4.3 billion. The first paragraph of the press release was changed to
reflect the present thinking of the Members in regard to the increase in
steel prices.

The third paragraph of the press release was changed, namely the word
"last" was changed to "previous" Democratic Administration. The press re-
lease statement was then approved and a copy is attached hereto.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF STEEL

There was general discussion concerning what should be said at the press conference in regard to the announced increase in the price of steel, as well as President Kennedy's press remarks on the subject.

The Chairman stated that he had recently given a TV interview and had not taken any specific position but had based his remarks upon the thesis that all criticism should be withheld until there was a complete investigation to ascertain all of the facts.

Senator Dirksen raised the question as to whether or not the White House was trying to fix prices and also to lay a foundation for the introduction of the old O'Mahoney bill in regard to large monopolies.

JFK INCREASES ALREADY EXCEED 1940 COST OF GOVERNMENT

The Chairman then recognized Congressman Halleck who stated that because of the time element the fact sheet would not be read and he then proceeded to read the previously-prepared press statement on the subject.

Congressman Brown stated that more spending bills than those listed were pending before the House Committees but it was decided not to list all of them because of space. The statement was then approved and a copy is attached hereto.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Congressman Halleck asked for information concerning the 1962 Joint Committee on Republican Principles. Senator Hickenlooper stated that there had been a meeting about ten days ago and one was scheduled for this afternoon and that the committee was making progress.

Congressman Halleck stated that in regard to the Republican speeches in the House on yesterday he wishes it known that the Leadership had cooperated and that whether the performance was a success or a minus, he did not know.


He did want it made clear that all of the statements made were statements of the individuals and did not completely express the opinions of the House Republican Policy Committee.

Congressman Halleck also called attention to the misstatements in the press in regard to a letter Congressman Miller had sent to the House Membership in regard to a medicare bill sponsored by Congressman Bow.

Congressman Brown raised a question as to whether or not the House Leadership was in back of the Schwengel resolution relating to an increase in Minority staff positions on the committees of the House. The general consensus was that the Minority was not in too bad a position. Congressman Byrnes stated he had recently made a survey of the Minority Members on the subject but had not had time to read the results of it.

Senator Hickenlooper stated that he could not voice a complaint in regard to the staffing of the committees of which he was a member.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
April 17, 1962