

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR APRIL 18, 1962, AT 9:00 A.M.  
IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE  
EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Members Present:

Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Hickenlooper  
Congressmen Halleck, Hoeven, Byrnes, Arends

Members Absent:

Senator Kuchel  
Congressman Brown

Also Absent:

The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller,  
because of illness

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

Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen acted as Presiding Officer and  
called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following agenda was presented for consideration:

President's Action in the Steel Case  
Legislative Matters

After a brief previous discussion Senator Dirksen read the prepared  
press release on the subject, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Further questions were raised as to whether a statement should be  
issued at this time, whether any statement should be cleared with other  
Republicans in the House and Senate, whether the economics of the situation  
should be gone into, whether or not a better line of attack would be the  
dictatorial way in which the President handled the matter, whether or not  
a Congressional investigation should be called for and a suggestion that  
the nine points listed in the statement should be pin-pointed.

Due to the fact that several members of the meeting had to leave for  
other engagements, it was suggested that Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Harlow

rewrite the statement to include the ideas expressed and that the meeting reconvene at 12:15 in P-5, Congressman Arends' office in the Capitol. This suggestion was agreed to.

Before recessing, Congressman Hoeven suggested that some exploration be made during the Easter recess of the Estes case involving the Department of Agriculture. He stated that the Dallas News had carried stories which had not appeared locally and apparently there was an attempt on the part of the Administration to condone the matter. It was agreed that the matter would be looked into and would be placed on the agenda at a later meeting.

The meeting recessed at 10:13 a.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 12:20 in P-5, the Capitol office of Congressman Arends. All members were present as listed above with the exception of Senator Hickenlooper.

Chairman Miller appeared shortly after the meeting reconvened.

Bill Pitts of Congressman Arends' office also was present.

A new prepared statement on the subject was presented to all present.

Congressman Halleck stated that he had telephoned President Eisenhower to get his advice and had read the statement to him. He stated that President Eisenhower thought that the statement by and large was good and that something should be done about the matter.

He also stated that he had talked with George Humphrey on the telephone at the suggestion of President Eisenhower.

Mr. Halleck also stated he had received assurance that Mr. Blough would not be backing down by doing or saying something which would prejudice the press release.

April 18, 1962

Several minor changes were suggested and approved and the new release was approved.

In regard to its issuance it was agreed that Mr. Humphreys would state that the press conference had been cancelled but that a statement would be issued by the Joint Leadership at 1:00 P.M. tomorrow.

Mr. Humphreys also agreed to talk with Senators Hickenlooper, Kuchel and Saltonstall and Congressman Brown in regard to the release, and a copy of the approved statement is attached.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

*J. Mark Trice*  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Acting Presiding Officer  
April 18, 1962