

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN  
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR MAY 10, 1962, AT 9:30 A.M.  
IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, HE 203,  
THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

Chairman: Congressman William E. Miller,  
Chairman, Republican National Committee

Members:

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

Guest: General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Also Invited to be Present:

Senator Barry Goldwater and Congressman Robert Wilson  
of California. Senator Goldwater was out of the city  
and Congressman Wilson attended the luncheon

Staff:

Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire,  
Robert Allett, Mark Trice

The Chairman, Congressman William E. Miller, called the meeting to order  
at 9:32 a.m.

Prior to the meeting being called to order the following agenda was  
presented for consideration:

General Eisenhower's Statement  
Leadership Statement  
World Situation  
Legislative Situation, Senate, House  
Adjourn for Press Conference

At 9:20 a.m. General Eisenhower, escorted by Senator Dirksen and Congress-  
man Halleck, arrived and after photographers had taken a number of pictures  
Chairman Miller stated that the Leadership group was privileged to have  
General Eisenhower with them and pleased that he looked so well.

The Chairman stated that the agenda for this meeting was not firm and  
he understood that the General had a prepared statement for the press

conference and suggested that it might be read for the information of those present.

#### General Eisenhower's Statement

General Eisenhower proceeded to read a prepared statement for the information of the Members present and stated that while he listed only a few of the recent proposals to vest more authority in the Executive Branch there were many more.

The statement was read paragraph by paragraph and discussion ensued on all subject matter presented and several minor changes were suggested. When the reading of the statement was finally concluded and discussion ended, the General thought that it might be better just to select one or two items and speak extemporaneously. However, the Members thought that the prepared statement was good and that the entire statement should be read as opening remarks and copies given to the press. The General agreed to do this and a copy of the approved statement is attached hereto.

As the statement was being read paragraph by paragraph a number of questions were raised and individual comments were made by those present. General Eisenhower was asked how he would reply if certain questions were asked by the Members of the Press. Also, the General requested that he be briefed on several legislative matters on which he was not completely familiar.

#### General Eisenhower's Comments

In response to various questions raised the General made certain statements and arrived at certain conclusions which are as follows:

In regard to expenditures for Public Works the General stated that his experience had been that no real help had been derived from this medium of expenditure. The time element in getting the projects started took too long for the benefits to be felt and in two experiences during his administration

the economy responded before the program became effective. He referred to the proposed authority as a "damnable thing" and stated that "Congress might as well appropriate a lump sum of money and go home";

That in the operation of his farm he had received no allocation and had never taken a nickel from the Government. He seemed quite surprised that under the terms of the pending farm bill that he would be subject to the new regulations imposed;

That with further reference to the Department of Urban Affairs he stated he had gone on record on this subject;

That so far as the change in the Federal Reserve Board status was concerned, the move was solely a political one which he considered most heinous and that it was purely an attempt by the President to dominate the Board. He referred to the fight which President Truman had with the Board and his desire to take it over;

That in regard to the recent steel dispute General Eisenhower expressed belief that the Republicans do not stress sufficiently the fact that the Federal Government has to live on profits, that the Government cannot be run without them and that the party should be talking about profits which the economy produces;

He emphasized that the power of the purse must be jealously guarded by the Congress.

In regard to Foreign Affairs the General stated that knowing how complicated the subject of Foreign Affairs is and with only the President having all of the latest facts and information, it would be very difficult to reach conclusions and he did not feel competent to do so today even though he had been informed from time to time of certain events.

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In reply to a comment concerning the glib remarks made during the campaign in regard to Cuba and Laos, he thought that the only thing to do would be to go along with the President and then later show a record of "miserable failure".

The General thought that Secretary Dulles' position of brinkmanship was necessary and that in the subject of Foreign Affairs firmness was something that must be had.

In speculating on the Far Eastern situation the General thought that the proper policies to be carried out were firmness in Viet-Nam and the strengthening of the situation in Thailand.

He commented about the bad terrain in Laos and the lack of moral fiber of the Laotians. However, he thought that the loyal elements in Laos should be helped and he stated that so far as he could see the Administration was doing just that.

In all these matters he said that Congress should be taken into every confidence and that constitutional ways should only be used to drive back communism.

In speaking of the withholding of funds by the Administration in Laos as a means of forcing the Cabinet there to seat a Communist, the General thought it was a mistake as the same thing was done to China in the days of Chaing Kai-shek.

The General stated that he had not been briefed for a month or two in regard to the Berlin situation and said "Thank goodness that General Clay was there". While he thought the wall should have been destroyed when it was first started, it is too late now to make any move in that respect. He stated that he did not believe that our policy should be guided entirely by

Adenauer and said that when he first assumed the Presidency a firm policy had been established by the previous Administration concerning the Yalu River. He stated that the only way an armistice was quickly signed was by reversing those policies and stating that if one was not promptly signed targets would be attacked on the other side of the River. He stated he did not know why General Clay was returning but that he hoped to talk with him shortly after his return.

He stated that the Administration seems to always use diversionary tactics in regard to the Berlin crisis by speaking about an increase in ground forces, a race to the moon and other matters. It was his opinion that the Russians will not start a war.

Referring to the suggested tax cut by the President, the General referred to two tax cuts adopted by the Republicans when in power with no credit being received by the Party in the following elections.

The General spoke of the importance of detailing all of the charges against the Administration and getting it out to the candidates. Chairman Miller stated that a brochure was being prepared by the National Committee to be sent to the States.

#### Joint Leadership Statement by Congressman Halleck

Congressman Halleck was recognized by the Chairman and he read a proposed press release which is to be made next Sunday in the name of the Joint Leadership. A copy of the approved statement is attached hereto. Several minor changes were made in the statement before approval.

#### Billie Sol Estes Matter

Chairman Miller spoke concerning the Billie Sol Estes matter and spoke of the difficulty in obtaining the facts because all investigatory sources are being controlled by the Democrats. He stated that he believed that the

Republicans can receive some good from the scandal and an investigator had been hired by the National Committee to ascertain what facts he could.

Congressman Hoeven stated that definitely the lid was on and that not a single question about the matter was asked of the President at his press conference on yesterday. Congressman Halleck stated that if the Democrats refuse to act the Republicans of the House and Senate could attempt an investigation but that they would be definitely restricted.

Press Conference and Luncheon

Chairman Miller then briefed the Members as to the schedule for the rest of the day, namely, a press conference by General Eisenhower accompanied by the Members of the Joint Senate and House Leadership Committee at 11:30 a.m. in the Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building, and a return for luncheon at 12:30 in the New Senate Conference Room in the Capitol.

At the luncheon conference Congressman Halleck thanked the General for participating with the group and congratulated him on his press conference.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the  
Presiding Officer  
May 17, 1962