

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1963,
AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE (S. 230) OF THE SENATE
MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

The Presiding Officer, William E. Miller

Members: Senators Dirksen, Hickenlooper, Saltonstall, Morton
Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Ford, Wilson

Absent: Senator Kuchel
Congressman Brown

Also Present: Guest: General Dwight D. Eisenhower

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

Chairman William E. Miller arrived at 9:37 A.M. and formally called the meeting to order but prior thereto there was a briefing by Senator Dirksen of his visit to the White House on yesterday in regard to Civil Rights matters. He expressed the opinion there would probably be another meeting next week after which the legislation would be sent to the Congress.

Congressman Halleck stated that he came away with the conviction that the Administration was in a political dilemma and that he had given no commitments and he thought none should be given. He did not think that the Republicans should be expected to bail them out of their difficulties.

President Eisenhower referred briefly to the critical statements made at the time by Mrs. Roosevelt and others in regard to his sending troops into Little Rock and stressed the fact that it was primarily to enforce the order of the District Court.

Chairman Miller referred to the Civil Rights provisions in the Republican Platform specifically referring to desegregation of public facilities where Federal tax money is used.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

JFK Foreign Policy Speech

Suspension of Nuclear Testing

Photographers

Other Matters

JFK Foreign Policy Speech

Senator Dirksen then proceeded to read his prepared statement.

Suspension of Nuclear Testing

Congressman Ford spoke confidentially of a recent visit by representatives of the Defense Department in regard to reprogramming funds for resumption of nuclear tests.

Senator Hickenlooper spoke of the coming Moscow nuclear meeting as forced on the country with no hope or chance of any settlement and that it appeared to him we were going there with hat in hand. He stated that it would seem from information he had the Administration was making preparation for tests, as six months would be needed to prepare for them. He stated that, in his opinion, when the Moscow meetings broke up without results it would present a bad psychological reaction to the world.

Mr. Halleck then read his prepared statement on the subject of Nuclear Testing.

It was the suggestion of General Eisenhower that perhaps a question should be asked in one of the statements that if testing is to be stopped, should not the use of appropriated funds also be frozen. It was generally agreed that a question of this kind should be added to the statement of Mr. Halleck.

There were also some statements made as to the advancement made by China in the nuclear field and that perhaps it might be well to put something in the statement anticipating this development.

Photographers

At 10:03 A.M. the photographers were allowed to enter and take pictures of the group.

Other Matters

The meeting resumed and the conversation returned to Civil Rights.

General Eisenhower stated that in his mind all persons were in favor that some action should be taken and it was pretty well settled in the minds and hearts of all people. However, he did think that the matter was pretty much related to the "fundamental right to vote".

The General said that he would refer to his visit this morning as "a meeting of old friends getting together and being brought up to date". He also stated that in regard to anything which would tend to unite the Party the Leadership could count on him for support. The statement was also made by him that he had given no implied commitment or support for any Presidential candidate and that in his opinion Governor Scranton was definitely out of the picture by the latter's own statement. He said that he intended to be present at the next Republican Convention for conferences only with his old friends.

The Chairman congratulated and extended birthday greetings to Congressman John W. Byrnes.

The Chairman also announced that the statements previously read were approved and a copy of each is attached hereto.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 A.M.

J. Mark Trice -
Acting Secretary