

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR JULY
27, 1961, AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSE
MINORITY LEADER, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES A. HALLECK

Members Present:

Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Kuchel
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Hoeven, Brown, Miller.

Members Absent:

Senator Bridges.

Also present:

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

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

The Agenda for consideration is as follows:

Berlin Crisis

Defense vs Domestic Spending

Outer Mongolia Letter

BERLIN CRISIS

The Chairman called for consideration of the first item on the agenda,
Berlin Crisis, and recognized Senator Dirksen to read his paper on the subject.
General discussion followed. Mr. Harlow questioned "logic" of President Kennedy's
mobilization in West Berlin and Germany, and pointed out the danger in this day of
missiles and atomic warfare in the concentration of massive ground forces and materiel.
Mr. Harlow said there is much difference of opinion on mobilization procedures in
this Atomic Age, and recalled the "long standing differences" in this matter between
President Eisenhower's Chief of Staff and General Maxwell Taylor, now President
Kennedy's military adviser, and Harlow added, "this is what Taylor has been advocating
for six years but rejected by all his superior officers". Mr. Harlow also mentioned
~~the~~ Congressman Mahon, Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee, stated in

hearings "there is no sense in ground troops for Berlin".

There was discussion of our readiness for nuclear warfare and Congressman Arends stated he was certain we were ready and the the "USSR knows it."

Congressman Brown discussed the effect of mobilization on unemployment and inflation.

Congressman Brynes said it is impossible to match Russia in ground troops or ground warfare in the Berlin situation.

There being no further discussion, Senator Dirksen's statement on "Berlin Crisis" was approved. A copy is attached.

DEFENSE VS DOMESTIC SPENDING

Chairman Miller called the second item on the agenda, Defense vs Domestic Spending, and recognized Congressman Halleck to read his statement on this item. There was general discussion of the matter and it was determined that no member of the Republican Leadership had been consulted by the White House prior to the President's July 25th statement on the Berlin Crisis and calling for an additional 3.4 billion. Congressmen Hoeven, Byrnes and Brown brought up the non-defense spending of this Administration and concurred with Congressman Halleck's statement that if additional billions are necessary for the Berlin Crisis there should have been less spent this Session for non-defense items, and in the future non-defense spending should be drastically reduced. The question was raised as to where the Leadership should suggest the President cut non-defense spending. There was general discussion and Chairman Miller suggested housing, sewers, hospitals as areas where reductions could have been and could be made. It was pointed out that the Republican Leadership and Republican Members in general had made repeated efforts this Session to reduce non-defense spending, and Congressman Hoeven and Byrnes agreed that the blame for the excessive non-defense spending should be placed "right at the White House".

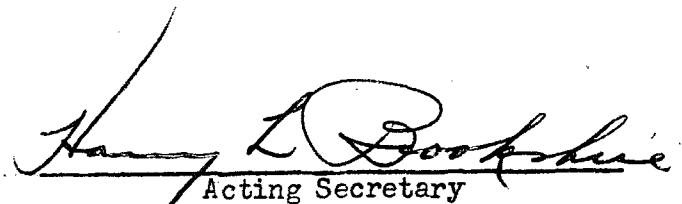
There being no further discussion on item two, Congressman Halleck's statement was approved without change. A copy is attached.

OUTER MONGOLIA LETTER

The Chairman called item three on the agenda for consideration and recognized Senator Dirksen to read the draft of a proposed letter to President Kennedy to be signed by Senator Dirksen and Congressman Halleck, stating the Joint Republican Leadership's opposition to the Administration's effort to have Outer Mongolia seated in the U. N. After general discussion of the text of the letter it was agreed the last sentence should be deleted which indicated the Leadership would not make the letter public and would give confidential treatment to any reply from the White House. It was also generally agreed that the President would not answer but that the letter would be on file and a part of White House record stating the Republican Leadership's position on the seating of Outer Mongolia. Senator Dirksen added he knew of no one that wanted Outer Mongolia seated except the Kennedy Administration. A copy of the original draft is attached. The letter was approved with the last sentence deleted.

There was general discussion concerning legislation that would be considered by the House and Senate prior to adjournment, particularly Mutual Aid. The House Leadership stated they would insist on retaining control of Mutual Aid appropriations and authorizations, and also insist on Congressional right to annual review.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.


Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer