

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT REPUBLICAN
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR AUGUST 24, 1961 AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE OFFICE OF SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Members Present:

Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Kuchel
Representatives Halleck, Arends, Hoeven

Members Absent:

Senator Bridges
Representatives Miller, Brown and Byrnes

Also Present:

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

In the absence of the Presiding Officer, Chairman William E. Miller,
the meeting was called to order at 8:36 A.M. by Senator Everett Dirksen
and the following agenda was presented for consideration:

Under Secretary of State Bowles

U. S. Exports to Soviet Bloc

Foreign Aid Legislation

Prior to consideration of the first item on the agenda there was
general discussion concerning the adjournment picture as it involved
appropriation bills, extension of the Civil Rights Commission and Impacted
Areas legislation. Possible action on the part of Congress in regard to
the Foreign Aid Bill was surveyed and the question was raised concerning
Secretary Rusk's commitments to South America as to whether or not a treaty
was involved.

Congressman Halleck raised the question as to whether or not a letter
which former President Eisenhower wrote to the White House in regard to
the Foreign Aid bill should be released to the press. Bryce Harlow said
that he would look into the matter once again.

The number one item on the agenda was then considered and Senator Dirksen read a prepared press statement.

Senator Dirksen informed the members of the group of his meeting with Vice President Johnson before his Berlin trip. He stated that it was the desire of the President that Johnson make the trip and Senator Dirksen stated that he recommended the trip also. He stated that later the President telephoned him and thanked him for his support while certain Democrats had expressed a contrary opinion. Senator Saltonstall suggested that an oral statement might be made to the press with regard to the Republican support of the Berlin position as well as approval of the Johnson trip.

The prepared statement was approved and a copy is attached hereto.

Congressman Halleck then read the prepared statement in regard to item two on the agenda which was approved and a copy of which is attached hereto.

Returning once again to the Foreign Aid legislation now in conference, Congressman Halleck stated that while the Republicans voted for the bill they did not vote for the five-year blank check, and there was a possibility that the Conference report could be defeated in the House if the conferees recommended a three-year provision with "back-door" spending.

Senator Dirksen stated that there was some talk of reviving the School bill but that amendment would be offered which would again cause trouble.

Brief discussion ensued concerning sine die adjournment of the Congress with the opinion expressed that this session has been a time-wasting one and that if one or two matters were settled adjournment could come shortly. Senator Dirksen, however, stated that because of the witness schedule on the Foreign Aid bill and the writing of the report thereon that it would

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be unlikely for the Senate to consider it before September 12, and with the School Bill and the fight in regard to Rule 22 it looked as though the session would continue until late September.

Congressman Halleck raised a question concerning a meeting next week and stated that he could see nothing particular in the picture and it was generally decided that there would be no meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 A.M.



Acting Secretary

Approved by the
Presiding Officer
September 13, 1961