

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JOINT  
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1963, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE  
(H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE  
CHARLES A. HALLECK

Present:

Members: The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller  
Senators Dirksen, Saltonstall, Kuchel, Hickenlooper  
Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Wilson

Absent: Senator Morton  
Congressmen Brown and Ford

Also Present:

Robert Humphreys, Bryce Harlow, Harry Brookshire, Mark Trice

The Chairman, William E. Miller, called the meeting to order at  
9:05 A.M. and the agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Tax Proposal

JFK and His Own Tax Record

GOP Suggestion

Question of Equal Time with JFK

Other Legislative Matters

Tax Proposal

Chairman Miller suggested that Mr. Halleck proceed to read the prepared statement on this subject but before doing so Congressman Halleck informed those present of two previous meetings of the Republican Policy Committee which resulted in a statement on the subject which in his opinion really made sense. He also spoke of a research job which revealed that Kennedy had voted in the past against every tax reduction proposal presented by the Republicans and Congressman Halleck asked if there was any objection to the release of a memo in regard to his votes. There was no objection.

After several minor changes in the statement it was approved. A copy is attached.

Congressman Halleck asked that Congressman Byrnes be recognized in order that the group might be informed as to the wording of the Republican motion to recommit which will be presented when the tax bill is before the House for consideration.

Congressman Byrnes was recognized and stated that in effect the motion would be that the tax bill would be effective if the President's budget expenditures for 1964, which would be announced in January, did not exceed \$97 billion as applied to the 1964 estimate and that the 1965 budget did not exceed \$98 billion. He stated that it would be possible for the President to announce in advance the figures. It would mean a reduction of approximately \$1 billion for this year and approximately \$1 billion plus for 1965.

Senator Dirksen then read his prepared statement on the same subject and after minor amendments it was approved.

#### Question of Equal Time with JFK

During the discussion of the previous statements the question of equal time was raised and it was finally resolved that the Chairman would send a telegram to the various networks at the conclusion of the President's speech this evening. It was also agreed that Congressman Byrnes would be the logical person to make a reply if one was to be made. The Chairman said he would make several checks after the broadcast and then decide if a request for time was to be made.

Senator Dirksen was recognized and suggested that figures should be assembled to show where specific cuts can be made in various budget items.

Minutes of the Republican Joint Leadership Meeting - 3 September 18, 1963

Other Legislative Matters

There was not sufficient time to discuss the legislative situation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

*J. Mark Trice.*  
Acting Secretary