

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALLED FOR THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 1963, AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
(S-230) OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN

Present:

Members: Senators Dirksen, Kuchel, Morton
Congressmen Halleck, Arends, Byrnes, Brown, Wilson

Guest: The Honorable William F. Knowland

Absent: The Presiding Officer, Congressman William E. Miller
Senators Saltonstall and Hickenlooper
Congressman Ford

Also Present: Robert Humphreys, Harry Brookshire, Mark Trice

Senator Dirksen called the meeting to order at 11:18 after a delay caused by the early convening of the House of Representatives. Senator Dirksen then read the agenda of the meeting which was as follows:

Collapse of Latin American Policy

JFK vs Will of Congress

Other Legislative Matters

Collapse of Latin American Policy

Prior to the reading of the prepared statement by Senator Dirksen, Congressman Halleck spoke of the White House meeting on the subject of Wheat. He stated that this was another case of being advised after the decision had been made and that he had still received no answers to the questions which had been previously raised on the subject.

There were several slight changes made in the Dirksen statement and it was approved, a copy of which is attached.

JFK vs Will of Congress

Congressman Halleck, for the information of those present, first read the fact sheet before reading the prepared statement. After minor changes the statement was approved. A copy of the statement is attached.

The question of Wheat was again raised and Congressman Brown thought that the President had given the impression to the country that there had been Congressional approval of the matter.

Congressman Byrnes thought that the main issue involved in the Wheat proposal was whether the President should proceed in the light of a declared policy by Congress. The question was also raised as to who might have been contacted and the information was ventured that perhaps Senators Hickenlooper, Aiken and Young of North Dakota and Congressman Frances Bolton had been talked to. Congressman Halleck expressed the opinion that the Johnson act was fairly binding.

Other Legislative Matters

Congressman Halleck stated that he had recently attended several meetings in regard to Civil Rights and stated he would like to see the Senate act first. Senator Dirksen, however, thought that Senator Mansfield had no intention to schedule the legislation at this time but would wait for House action.

The opinion expressed was that the Democrats in the House were trying to put the burden on the Republicans to strike certain language in the subcommittee bill. The consensus was that Robert Kennedy should appear before the Committee and say what was satisfactory and recommend the changes to be made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

J. Mark France
Acting Secretary