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MINORITY LEADER

**United States
House of Representatives**

FILE NOTE:

**THE NEXT TIME THERE IS A COORDINATING
COMMITTEE REPORT SEND THIS MAN A
FEW COPIES USING THIS FRANK AND THEN
TYPE ANOTHER FRANK AND PUT IT BACK
BEHIND THIS NOTE. jb**

House of Representatives, U.S.


PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerald R. Ford

M.C.

Mr. R. Moore
414 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, Illinois



FOR THE SENATE:

Everett M. Dirksen, *Leader*
Thomas H. Kuchel, *Whip*
Bourke B. Hickenlooper, *Chr.*
of the Policy Committee
Leverett Saltonstall, *Chr.*
of the Conference
Thruston B. Morton,
Chr. Republican
Senatorial Committee

PRESIDING OFFICER:
The Republican
National Chairman
Dean Burch

THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Press Release

Issued following a
Leadership Meeting

January 11, 1965

FOR THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Gerald R. Ford, Jr.,
Leader
Leslie C. Arends, *Whip*
John W. Byrnes, *Chr.*
of the Policy Committee
Melvin R. Laird,
Chr. of the Conference
Clarence J. Brown,
Ranking Member
Rules Committee
Bob Wilson,
Chr. Republican
Congressional Committee

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DIRKSEN:

When defeat comes to a major political party in this country invariably there are outcries for revolutionary changes in party structure, party leadership and party policies. The Republican defeat of 1964 has produced these manifestations of uncertainty, unrest and uneasiness. Many suggestions, both formal and informal, for action pour from numerous sources.

We, the members of the Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership, are fully cognizant of the situation. There is no doubt in our minds that action is indicated and We are taking it. In our conversations since the November defeat we have discussed, among ourselves and with other recognized party leaders, numerous paths that might be followed. Always, certain basic facts have emerged:

First, that the only elected Republican officials of the Federal Establishment are the 32 Republican members of the United States Senate and the 140 members of the House of Representatives. Obviously and beyond dispute, they will guide Republican Party policy at the national level, in the absence of a Republican President and Vice President, by the record they write in the Congress. It is their responsibility.

Second, that an additional repository of advice and counsel on party policy exists in former Presidents and nominees for President, in our present elected Governors, in the members of the Republican National Committee and the State Chairmen of our several states, and, of course, in active Republican advocates at all other levels of the party structure. Their wisdom must be channeled into party policy formulation.

In the conviction that the Republican Party for a century has been and is an essential element in this nation's forward progress, and with the firm belief that all Republicans must join the effort, we, the members of the Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership, have on this day initiated a proposed mechanism to achieve a broad consensus on vital objectives for our country and our party. It is an honor to introduce my colleague, the new Republican Leader of the House, Jerry Ford, to provide the details of the proposal.

(Ford statement - page 2)

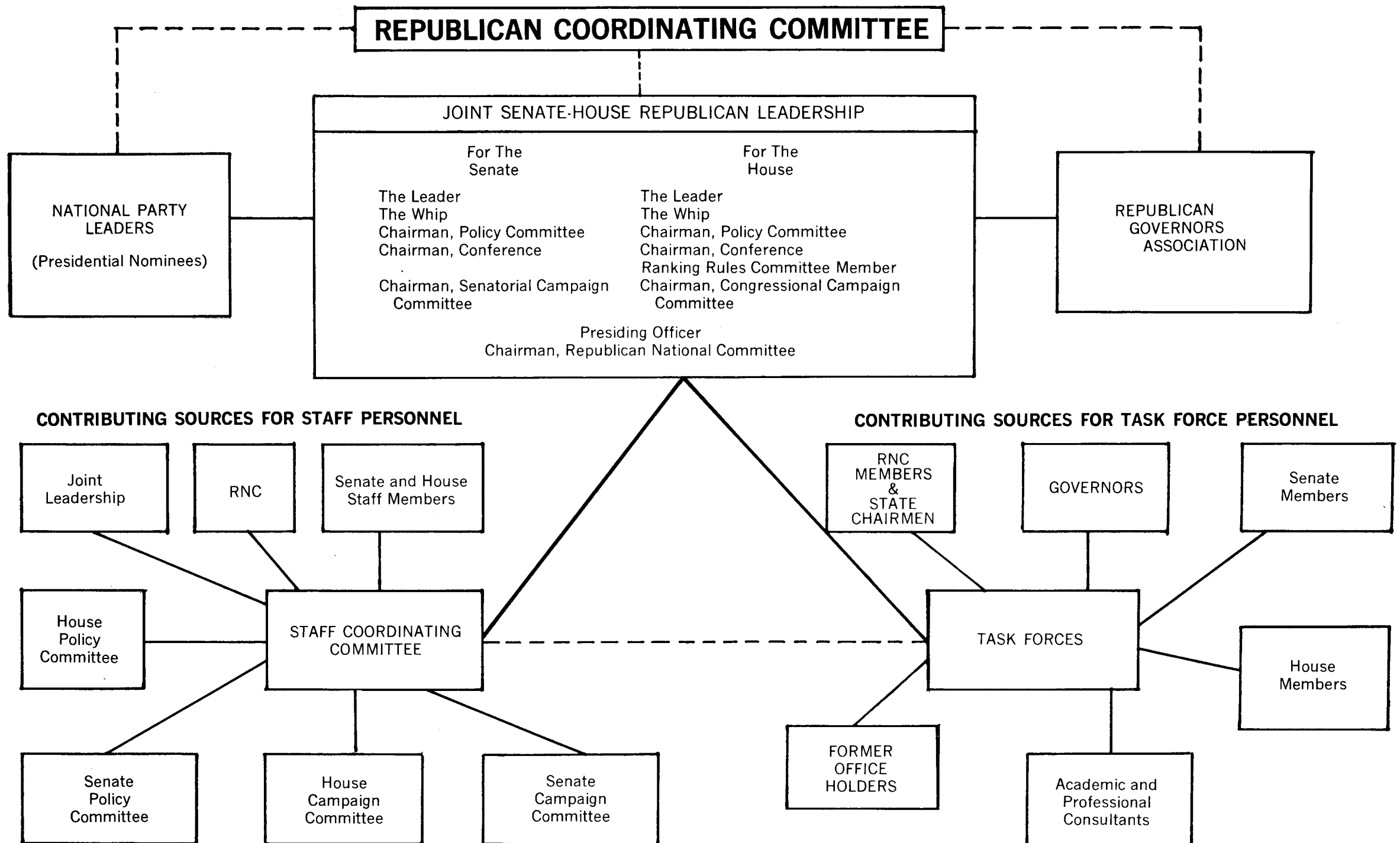
January 11, 1965

We propose to give the Republican Party a unified leadership. As a chart we are making public will show, we are inviting the five living Republican nominees for President -- one of whom, Dwight D. Eisenhower, served two terms in that office -- and representatives of the Republican Governors Association to join with us in the establishment of a Republican Coordinating Committee to continuously examine party policy and party operations.

We have asked the Presiding Officer of the Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership, the Republican National Chairman, Mr. Dean Burch, to serve as Presiding and Administrative Officer of the new Republican Coordinating Committee, and through the Republican National Committee to provide such staff assistance and funds as may be necessary. As Mr. Burch, himself, suggested, we regard this role an implicit responsibility for him or whoever may occupy his office in the future.

It will be the function of the Republican Coordinating Committee, composed of the eleven members of the Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership, the five living Republican nominees for President, and five representatives of the Republican Governors Association to facilitate the broadest party representation and the establishment of task forces for the study and examination of major national problems and issues. The recruiting sources for these task forces, which would report to the Joint Leadership, are clearly delineated on the organization chart which we are making public.

For the Joint Leadership, I have been asked to add these two pertinent points: First, the Republican National Chairman has been requested to immediately invite the other participants to join us in forming the Republican Coordinating Committee. Second, we are convinced that the Republican Party is not only a great force in the American way of life, but it is the only living political instrument which can make the American Dream a reality, not a mere collection of words and promises. Our only goal is results and we intend to achieve them.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON GOP COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- Q. Does the establishment of the Republican Coordinating Committee mean that the Joint Senate-House Republican Leadership is surrendering its role as a policy-making body?
- A. No, policy formulation, when the Party does not occupy the White House, still resides in Republican members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and their elected leaders, but the Coordinating Committee will provide a communications center for the exchange of ideas on policy with other important party leaders and elected officials; also the establishment of task forces will be an implementing feature.
- Q. Who will appoint the task forces?
- A. The Republican National Chairman as the Presiding Officer of the Coordinating Committee will appoint the task forces with the advice of the Joint Leadership and, when appropriate, in consultation with the former Presidential nominees and representatives of the Governors Association. In all cases the Presiding Officer will circulate his lists of task force appointees in advance to all the participating members of the Coordinating Committee.
- Q. Who will direct the staff operation which will assist both the Coordinating Committee and the task forces?
- A. The Presiding Officer will designate a Staff Coordinator, presumably from the staff of the Republican National Committee. It will be the Staff Coordinator's responsibility to assemble volunteer research help from the sources indicated on the chart.
- Q. What about representation on the task forces for organized groups representing agriculture, labor, veterans, etc., etc.?
- A. It is the hope of the Coordinating Committee the task forces will have help from all the major organizations in our society and such help will be sought.
- Q. How often will the Coordinating Committee meet and when will the first meeting be?
- A. The date of the first meeting will be fixed to suit the convenience of the maximum number of the Committee's members. This will be explored by the Presiding Officer. The continuity of Committee meetings will be established at the first session.
- Q. How will the Coordinating Committee be financed?
- A. By the Republican National Committee.
- Q. Has this type of committee ever been set up before?
- A. As near as can be determined neither major political party has ever attempted to establish a coordinating body such as the Republican Coordinating Committee. It is an innovation.

DECLARATION

for the

REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

meeting at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C.

March 10, 1965

PURPOSE

The Republican Coordinating Committee was created (1) to broaden the advisory base on national party policy; (2) to set up task forces to study and make recommendations for dealing with the problems that confront the people of our nation; and (3) to stimulate communication among the members of the party and others in developing a common approach to the nation's problems.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Recent denials to Negro citizens of their basic Constitutional right to vote have aroused the conscience of every American. In some areas these rights have been denied by force and fraud and we are outraged that in the year 1965 these conditions should exist.

For more than 100 years the Republican Party has fought to protect the rights of every minority group and we urge all citizens to join us in this cause. We urgently favor Federal action to assure all citizens of the United States of their Constitutional rights without discrimination on account of race or color.

The goal of the Republican Party is that by the 1966 elections every American citizen shall be assured of his Constitutional right to vote.

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FOREIGN POLICY

Republicans, in their role as the loyal opposition, have consistently advocated, and now support, the Administration's announced policy in defending free South Vietnam against Communist aggression. We deplore the disruptive voices of appeasement in the Democratic Party which undercut the President in his conduct of foreign affairs, at a time of national crisis.

The President can always count on Republican support where the Administration's foreign policy is firm and decisive on the side of freedom. By the same token we owe a duty to the nation to point up those areas where the Administration's policy has failed and to offer constructive alternative proposals. Our Task Force on Foreign Policy shall have as one of its major objectives the examination of some of the most massive failures in foreign policy in recent American history -- the consolidation of the Communist beachhead in Cuba, the expansion of Communist influence and control in Africa and the Near East, the deterioration of the Atlantic Alliance.

America's voice in the world, once strong and clear, now with rare exceptions is mute, indecisive and inconsistent. It will be the Republican goal to fill this vacuum of international leadership not merely by criticizing what we believe is wrong, but by proposing those policies we believe are right.

TASK FORCES

The Republican Coordinating Committee today established the following task force assignments and requested the Republican National Chairman, Dean Burch, and his elected successor as of

April 1, Ray Bliss to appoint the members of the task forces after appropriate consultation with the members of the Coordinating Committee;

- (1) On Human Rights and Responsibilities
- (2) On the Conduct of Foreign Relations
- (3) On the Functions of the Federal, State and Local Governments
- (4) On Job Opportunities
- (5) On Federal Fiscal and Monetary Policies

Other task force assignments are still in the discussion stage and will be announced.

The Committee enthusiastically endorses the statement delivered by President Eisenhower as a guide line for future action. He has suggested basic problems and goals on which Republicans are agreed.

The next meeting of the Republican Coordinating Committee has been scheduled for June 1, 1965 in Washington, D. C.

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The following Statement was Approved Unanimously by the Republican Coordinating Committee meeting in Washington, D. C. December 13, 1965

Questions are being raised both at home and abroad as to the devotion of the American people to peace. One cause of this confusion has been the inability of the Johnson Administration to establish a candid and consistently credible statement of our position in Viet Nam. Official statements of the Administration have been conflicting and repeatedly over optimistic. The Communists have skillfully exploited this inadequacy of our present leadership.

We Republicans believe that the people of South Viet Nam should have an opportunity to live their lives in peace under a government of their own choice free of Communist aggression.

We believe that our national objectives should not be the unconditional surrender of North Viet Nam, but unconditional freedom for the people of South Viet Nam and support of their struggle against aggression.

Our nation, with vigorous Republican support and leadership, has dedicated itself to successful resistance to Communist aggression through programs for Greece and Turkey; in Iran, Lebanon and Quemoy-Matsu; in Austria, Trieste and Guatemala; by timely action in the Dominican Republic and today in Viet Nam.

Under our present policy in Viet Nam, there is a growing danger that the United States is becoming involved in an endless Korean-type jungle war. A land war in Southeast Asia would be to the advantage of the Communists.

Since it appears that the major portion of North Vietnamese military supplies arrive by sea, our first objective should be to impose a Kennedy-type quarantine on North Viet Nam.

To accomplish our objectives we also recommend the maximum use of American conventional air and sea power against significant military targets.

Our purpose is and must be, once again to repel Communist aggression, to minimize American and Vietnamese casualties, and to bring about a swift and secure peace.

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