

**The original documents are located in Box D8, folder “Ford Press Releases - House Organization, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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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)

*Official Copy*



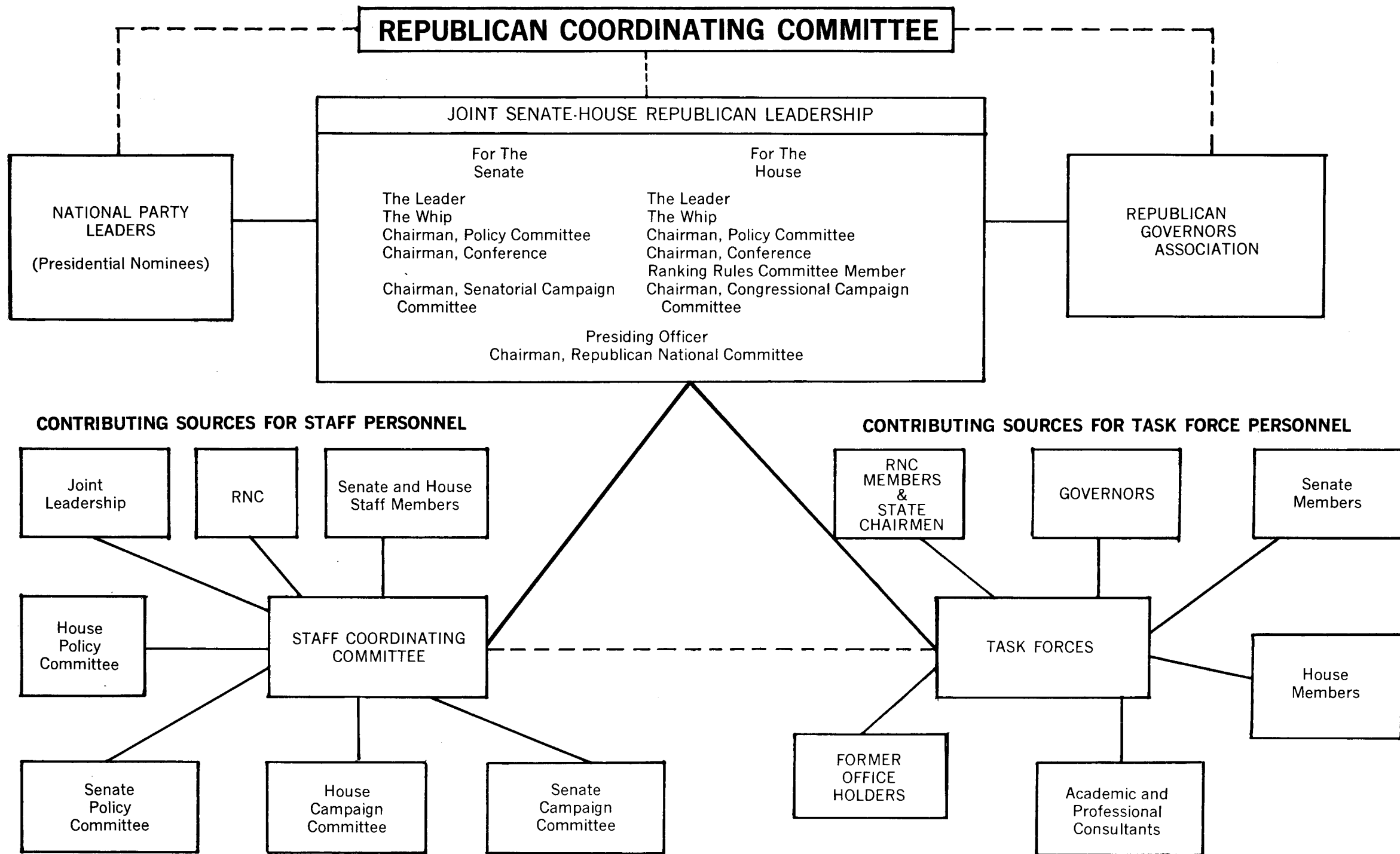
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We propose to give the Republican Party a unified leadership. As a chart we are making public will show, we are inviting the five living Republican nominees for President -- one of whom, Dwight D. Eisenhower, served two terms in that office -- and 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.

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**REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

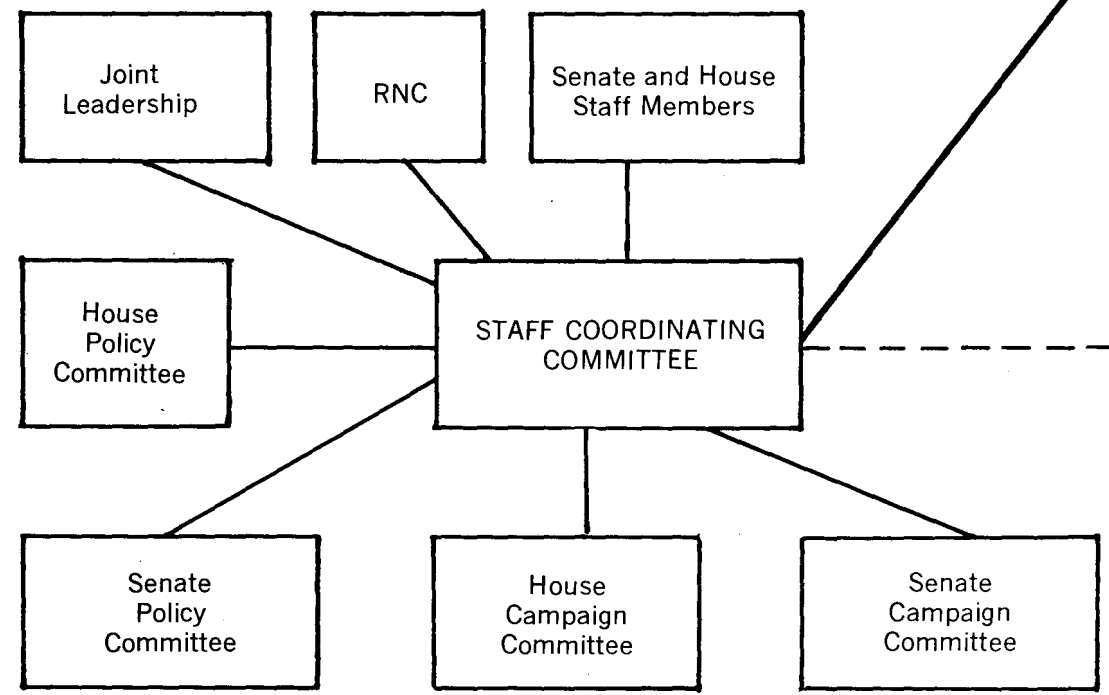
**JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP**

<b>For The Senate</b>	<b>For The House</b>
The Leader The Whip Chairman, Policy Committee Chairman, Conference  Chairman, Senatorial Campaign Committee	The Leader The Whip Chairman, Policy Committee Chairman, Conference Ranking Rules Committee Member Chairman, Congressional Campaign Committee
Presiding Officer Chairman, Republican National Committee	

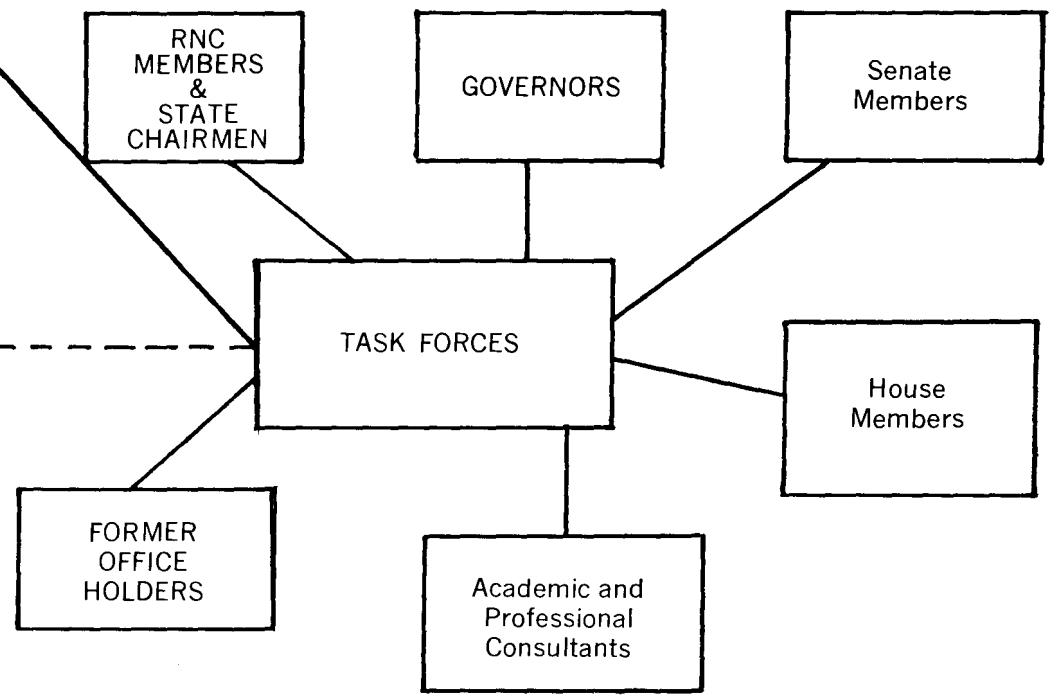
**NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS**  
(Presidential Nominees)

**REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION**

**CONTRIBUTING SOURCES FOR STAFF PERSONNEL**



**CONTRIBUTING SOURCES FOR TASK FORCE PERSONNEL**





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File copy (last one)  
PRESS RELEASE -- FEBRUARY 3, 1965

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY: GERALD R. FORD, HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER,  
MELVIN R. LAIRD, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE,  
AND LESLIE C. ARENDS, HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP

House Republican Leaders announced today the formation of a new House Republican Conference Committee. It will be called the Planning and Research Committee, and the Chairman will be Representative Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York.

The announcement was made at a joint press conference held by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, Republican Conference Chairman Melvin R. Laird and House Republican Whip Leslie C. Arends.

Ford described the new Planning Committee as a "major innovation that will help mobilize constructive Republican activity in developing long-term solutions to national problems. We in the leadership are unanimous in feeling that Charlie Goodell is the man to handle this important job," Ford said.

Congressman Laird said the Planning Committee will combine the old House Republican Policy Committee - - - Task Force Operation with a research team under the direction of Dr. William Prendergast, former research director of the Republican National Committee. The membership of this new Conference committee will be announced in the next few days.

Congressman Ford made the following statement on behalf of the Republican leadership:

"House Republicans have a major responsibility as the representatives of approximately 43 per cent of the electorate who voted for a Republican House of Representatives in 1964. That duty, as we conceive it, is to exert whatever influence we can to guide the Nation toward the goals of freedom, security, peace, and well-being with fiscal responsibility.

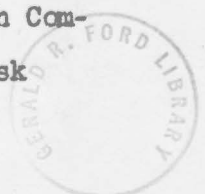
"We cannot accept the statement, 'The duty of the opposition party is to oppose.' This is too narrow and too negative a formulation of our responsibility.

"We must do more than respond to the initiatives of the Administration. We must take the initiative ourselves in two ways.

"First, we must offer alternative measures to cope with national problems when the Administration's proposals are unwise. This we are doing, for example, in the matter of lightening the burden of the costs of health care for older people.

"Secondly, we must press for action to deal with the problems to which the Administration is blind or indifferent.

"The leadership will rely principally upon the Planning and Research Committee to generate and formulate approaches developed through the separate task forces operating under the supervision of Chairman Goodell's Committee."



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