

# GOP Chiefs List Kennedy 'Deceptions'

Los Angeles Times

Republican Congressional leaders yesterday accused the Kennedy Administration of having the worst record in American history for news manipulation.

"The deplorable fact is that today millions of Americans believe their Government is not telling them the whole truth," said Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.).

Said House Minority Leader Charles A. Halleck (R-Ind.):

"For an Administration which says it favors truth in advertising, truth in securities, truth in packaging, truth in interest rates and truth in TV ratings, we suggest it also consider a project for truth in government."

Meeting with reporters at one of their periodic televised press conferences, Dirksen and Halleck cited a long list of alleged instances of news manipulation by the Administration—ranging from missiles in Cuba to handling of unemployment figures.

"These are only some of the scorns of deception from which the mighty oak of doubt has sprung," Dirksen said.

A reporter recalled that the Eisenhower Administration had lied initially when an American U-2 plane went down over Russia in 1960 and asked whether "news management" hasn't afflicted all administrations.

Dirksen replied that President Eisenhower himself had told the truth about the U-2 and had been scolded for it.

In answer to another question, Dirksen said he thought the present Administration's record in news handling is worse than that of any other.

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On another subject dear to the hearts of the two Republican leaders, budget cutting, a reporter asked about a published report naming Halleck as among Congressmen advocating big budget cuts. He had asked the White House for money to finance pet projects back home. The report cited Halleck as having asked for \$25 million to build a deep-water port in Indiana along the Lake Michigan shore. His face reddening, Halleck retorted that Indiana has helped finance public works projects all over the country and is entitled to one of its own.

If other Congress members are willing to give up their own pet projects, "I'll give up mine," Halleck said.