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Sages & Seniority: A Strange Breach

ONLY the filibuster prompts more criticism of Congress than the seniority system, and only the seniority system is more dearly beloved among senators than the filibuster.
Cartoonist Hugh Haynie shows how seniority works at the bottom of the congressional ladder. Said "freshman" Basil L. Whitener in a letter to The News:
"A friend of mine has sent over the editorial page of THE CHARLOTTE NEWS for Jan. 7. The cartoon (reproduced here) was marvelous and shockingly timely. At the time the newspaper came on the streets, the four new congressmen from North Carolina were standing around just as the cartoon depicted."

fit it brings to power.
Last week, however, the steering committee breached seniority to give Massachusetts' John Kennedy, instead of Estes Kefauver, a seat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
If the sacrosanct system can yield, as in this instance, to the purposes of presidential ambitions or of punitive measures against the "unsenatorial" Sen. Kefauver, why can't it yield to the advancement of proved ability in the Ervins over the obvious shortcomings of the Eastlands?
There is no ready substitute for the seniority system, but there is much in the way of courage and disinterested leadership that can be used to improve it.

Regardless of worth or wisdom, the best congressional freshmen can hope for is a seat on one powerful committee.
With that, time and repeated reelection can give him, still irrespective of worth or wisdom, the committee chairmanship and a struggle-hold on legislation in his field. Thus one of the South's worst spokesmen, Eastland of Mississippi, controls the Senate Judiciary Committee while one of its best, Ervin of North Carolina, counts himself fortunate to be given a back seat on the committee by the assembled sages of the Senate Democratic Steering Committee.

And even as Ervin takes his seat he must be careful to speak in turn. The newest man on a committee speaks last, according to the rules of seniority.
Congress' defense of the seniority system is to wait for critics to suggest a better one. No one has, for if ability is to determine committee assignments, who is to determine ability other than party seniors who now operate the seniority system? And certainly seniority does produce scores of effective and wise committee chairmen for every mis-



I'll Have Something For You Younguns Any Decade Now

Give A Cheer For The Liberal Arts

IN AN AGE of atoms and austerity, it is a beguiling article of faith in the new folklore that only technology can save us.
Perhaps, but it is particularly refreshing to find a U. S. industrialist willing to war against a "technical hypothesis" and neglect of the liberal arts in education.
Such a man is Clarence B. Randall, former chairman of the board of Inland Steel Corp. and now a special assistant to President Eisenhower. He stated his case for the humanities in a series of lectures at Harvard University last month. They were sponsored jointly by Harvard and the Fund for Adult Education.

neglect of the liberal arts.
The United States also needs men and women trained in the liberal arts. Many of the problems of business, of government, of life in general, cannot be solved by reference to physical standards, or by the laboratory method of analysis and testing. They require a richly varied educational background, a clear mind, the power of logical analysis, wisdom born of experience and, incidentally, a talent for communication.
It has been noted many times already that the seemingly permanent crisis of the 20th Century lies in man's acquisition of vast new powers over the physical world without acquiring any more power over himself. Here is a problem to challenge great minds, too. Surely corrective measures in this field are as important as the development of bigger and better hydrogen bombs.

"We behave at times," said Mr. Randall, "as though we believe there all problems can be resolved by the processes of physical research and the application of engineering methods. The lesson of my own business experience is that this is not so, and that the art of management, even in an industry where the secret of success on the achievements of the scientist and the engineer, requires a broadly cultivated mind."

Mr. Randall notes, with appropriate concern, that Americans read continuously of the tremendous advance which Soviet Russia is making in the training of engineers and scientists. Nowhere have they heard the Kremlin boasting of the increase in the number of graduates it is turning out in the liberal arts.

"This may prove to be the Achilles heel of the Communist dynasty," he said. "Their economy may become altogether lopsided through their worship at the shrine of technology, and our ultimate superiority may rest upon maintaining in our country the proper balance between these two approaches in the education of our youth.
The responsibilities of education require the cultivation of each approach without crippling the other."

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What Next? Gray Flannel Diplomacy?

IF MADISON AVENUE'S prize pichmen have their way, gray flannel diplomacy will be even greater than brinkmanship or globaloney as a device to win friends and influence allies. In that case, John Foster Dulles will be replaced by Betty Furness and U. S. foreign policy by a singing commercial.
It all started with the success of that perennial sales blunderer, the old lady from Dubuque wins two glorious weeks in Pismo Beach by writing (in 25 words or less) "I like Fluff-O Soap because..."

Heads of government scheduled to receive aid should be flown to Washington to testify before the appropriate committees. Each one should begin his testimony:
"I like American aid because..."
In 25 words or less? No, but brevity would presumably be encouraged.
Nothing came of it, however. Gray flannel diplomacy was politely nixed.
But Madison Avenue dies hard. What Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn could do with the idea staggers the imagination. Bontops! Coupons! Savings stamps! Double-your-money-back guarantees! Special offers! Elvis Presley!
The Russians couldn't survive. But neither could foreign aid.

Where it led is solemnly reported last week by the New York Times. It seems that a man from Madison Avenue, fired with the spirit of internationalism and aware of the struggle the administration has every year in selling its foreign aid budget to Congress, went to the International Cooperation Administration with a brilliant switch on the contest pitch:

Some bright young account executive would undoubtedly come up with the one fatal gimmick that would confirm Congress' darkest doubts about the program and explode the whole fabulous show. He would propose a giveaway show.

From The Montgomery Advertiser

ALTERED EMPHASIS

ON A FARM up in New York state, a banam hen made the news the other day by putting up a fight against a man who tried to rob her nest—the 2pound hen leaving a mark on the 200-pound man.

In the memory of living men. If you are an old-timer you can remember when the worth of a strain of chickens was not measured so much by how much they would weigh at eight weeks, as by the ability of the hens to fight off hawks and rustle a living for their brood.

The State Of The President: No Pains Or Palpitations

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
The President has given his report on the state of the nation, a report on the order of the President seems in order. The state of the President, according to those who should know, can be summed up very briefly. It is good.

at first over all this fussing over him. But there are certain compensations. Before his illness operation, he had to have stomach cramps—mostly mild but occasionally very painful, much more often than was generally known. He has not had them recently, and with the sense of relief, it is better off than before his operation.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

Take the first of the presidential health staff. No President and probably no man in history, ever had his physical condition subjected to such careful and continuous scrutiny. His doctors brood over him like a dozen hens with one chick. Almost every day, his blood is tested, his blood pressure taken and his pulse felt. The mildest of complaints are treated like a stiff shoulder—is treated like a full offense.

There are other compensations. His doctors have decided that regular exercise is not only good for the President, but essential to his well-being. At Gettysburg, recuperating from his operation, the President was denied all exercise, and he mooded, and stubbornly refused to gain weight, which worried the doctors more than he got a golf stick in his hand, his weight began to come back, and the President now again has to keep a watchful eye on the scales.

CHARTS CLEAN
Aside from this daily testing and probing, and the occasional big ceremonial hospital examinations, the President is also very regularly subjected to searching check-ups at the White House. A few days ago, in advance, Dr. Thomas Mattingly, the heart specialist, performed a thorough examination, and gave the President a clean bill of health.
The President grumbled a bit

There is a great deal calmer in spirit than he once was. He still likes to get away, but he no longer regards the White House as a prison. Above all, though he still hesitates to use the full power of the Presidency, there is a sense of inner assurance he lacked in his first years as President.
To this optimistic report on the state of the President, two war-

Back To The Greens

ners' regulars. He gets in some golf almost every fair day, and a swim is a regular afternoon occurrence. He swims in the heated White House pool, sometimes alone, sometimes with a grandchild, and often with his boon companion George Allen, perennial friend of the Presidents.

What Dulles Wants

The Hidden Card

By WALTER LIPPMANN

NEW YORK
MR. DULLES in his public statement did little to clarify and make concrete the new Middle Eastern plan. This uncertainty is due, I think, to the fact that what is really new and of practical importance in the plan is something which is difficult to say about in advance. This something new is the authority and the means to negotiate and to bargain with the unaligned Arab states.
I may be mistaken but I am supposing that Mr. Dulles is hoping not to have to show his hand before he plays it. His way of getting Congress to vote the authority, the men and the money, without his having to show his hand is to talk very loudly about something else, about the need once again to warn the Soviet Union not to attempt to conquer the Middle East by war.

it have done what is necessary to preserve peace and freedom.
GOOD POLICY?
But is this good public policy? Would it not be better to separate the warning from the bargaining power? The warning could be adopted promptly and with something very definite to back it up. The short resolution being circulated by Speaker Rayburn would do very well indeed. It would be a declaration by Congress that "the United States regards as vital to her interests the preservation of the independence and integrity of the states of the Middle East, and, if necessary, will use her armed force to that end."
Such a resolution need not, and in my view should not, become a "substitute" for the resolution asked by the President. Congress should give him authority and the means to negotiate in the Middle East. But Congress should act with deliberation and should avoid giving the impression that it thinks war is imminent and that it is being stampeded into signing away its control of the armed forces and of the expenditure of money.

NOVEL PART
There are in the plan two related yet separable parts. One is the warning to the Soviet Union or to a Soviet satellite, if there were one, not to commit overt military aggression. The other is the request for bargaining power to induce Arab states to become satellites, not to go overboard for the Soviet Union. It is this second part which has a certain novelty. It is on the first part that the President and Mr. Dulles have thought it expedient to focus attention.
This may be a good public relations device for dealing with Congress, which is, of course, quite willing to let a firm stand to warn against aggression, but is reluctant to sign blank checks. The device is to make one package out of the warning and the blank checks. Congress is being told that only if it "quickly disposes of" the warning, will it be able to resist the "piecemeal conquest of the world by war," will

There is good reason for thinking that by breaking up the package and by taking the two parts separately, Congress would help to make the overall plan more likely to succeed. For one of the great defects of the Eisenhower-Dulles approach has been that it seems to imply that in accepting our assistance and our guarantee, the Arab states are aligning themselves with us against the Soviet Union.
Certain of the key countries are unlikely to do this. It might be better, therefore, to deal with the warning to the Soviet Union in one package and to bargain with the Arab states in another resolution.

Savage Torpor

How Minds Are Blunted

THE human mind is capable of being excited without the application of gross and violent stimulants, and he must have a very faint perception of its beauty and dignity who does not know that it is capable of further knowledge, that one being is elevated above another in proportion as he possesses this capability. It has therefore appeared to me, in my endeavor to produce or enlarge this capability in one of the best brains in which, at any time, a worker can be engaged, but in this service, excellent at all times, is especially so at the present day, for the main cause of the unknown to former times, are

Communists & Veto Must Go From U. N.

Great Falls, N. C.

FOR the 11 years since the United Nations was organized I have carefully observed its actions and transactions in the Assembly and could only come to one conclusion:
That unless the U.N. charter is revised to exclude the veto power and substitute just majority decision, and also to include the creation of a permanent international militia with sufficient power to help enforce the U.N. decisions, the United Nations assembly will forever remain a debating body and a useless one.
Years later, that was about four or five years ago, I came to a still more positive decision: That as long as the Soviet Union and its satellites had membership in the United Nations, no peace will

'Hop In — This Oughta Be Real Cozy'



People's Platform

ever be procured and surely no permanent peace.
I then stated and am still confident that the only reason the Communists held membership in the U.N. is to have a convenient outlet for their propaganda and a very comfortable arrangement for their fifth columnists to carry out their activities without any molestation.
Often have I suggested that a legal way should be found to oust all the Communists from the U.N., because they are the only obstacle to procuring permanent peace.
The failure in San Francisco to provide a clause in the charter to expel a permanent member on the cause of his failure to cooperate with the U.N. should not stop us from taking that serious step to get rid of them. If no other way is possible, then the U.N. be dissolved and a new one immediately shall be organized and with only such member nations that have proven by deeds during their membership in the U.N. that they are earnestly working and un-

Drew Pearson's Merry-Ground

Emotional Ties

REAL truth is that a slip of the tongue on a speech stand would have caused Sen. William Knowland to shake up the politicians with the announcement that he would not run again.
Knowland was telling the truth, as usual, when he wanted to give more time with his family. However, other factors were also involved.

How Bill Knowland Let The Cat Out

Patched-Up Feud

The Knowland-Nixon feud was patched up last summer, and the senator emphatically came to Nixon's support in a special State of the Union address a greater part in molding American foreign policy. But last fall at the United Nations, Knowland, a delegate, found himself forced to make statements in flat disagreement with Eisenhower policy.
As the Senate opened, there came another Knowland-Nixon feud. Nixon tried to dislodge Nixon from making a statement against Rule 22 protecting the right to filibuster.

No Choice

"I have no other choice," Nixon answered, implying that his statement represented the considered policy of the Eisenhower administration.
But the executive branch, the executive branch, but I'm running the Senate,"

Nixon Friction

In the background also is friction between Knowland and the young man whose meteoric rise has threatened to dislodge him out of the ambitions for the presidency — Richard M. Nixon.
This has been apparent to close observers for some time and cropped up again in the minor incident which no one knew about.

It Came Out

"Do you plan to seek re-election in 1960?"
"No, I do not," Knowland replied, and immediately wished he had kept his mouth shut.
This was Monday morning. By Monday afternoon the senate from California decided that it wasn't fair to give

Hoover For President

Sen. Joe McCarthy, who began the Senate session with a wild attack on President Eisenhower, is trying to drum up a presidential boom for FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.
Joe boasts privately that he can get his Texas oil friends to finance Hoover's campaign. They don't like Ike's "modern Republicanism," are sore at him for vetoing the natural gas bill, says Joe.

Build-Up Coming

McCarthy claims the wide publicity given the book "The FBI Story" is only the beginning of Hoover's build-up for the GOP presidential nomination. The big issue in 1960, Joe predicts hopefully, will be communism. He charges Ike has been dodging Communists, claims the country needs a fighting anti-Red like Hoover.
McCarthy's Hoover-for-President boom, however, is embarrassing the FBI.
"We aren't responsible for what Joe does in the California press agent, Lou Nichols, told this column.