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Congress Best In Rejecting Bad Bills

The Democratic and Republican gentlemen of the 84th Congress have gone home to talk about each other and the record. Like most records, that of the second session of the 84th has credits and liabilities. There was nothing extraordinary about it except continued avoidance of bitter political infighting that might have been expected from a Democratic-controlled Congress sharing responsibility with a Republican administration.

Each, in fact, saved the other from serious mistakes. And there was cooperation, though often grudging, that resulted in some needed legislation. Passage of a huge highway program, after the administration yielded to use tax financing, was an example of productive cooperation. The administration's refusal to accept return to rigid farm price supports, and Congress' rejection of civil rights legislation showed the balancing force that killed off some bad moves.

Congress' most obvious political maneuver was its determined attempt to force a return to rigid farm supports and, thus, a surrender to the giant surplus of food and fiber. It upheld the President's veto, however, and finally passed the "soil bank" program designed to reduce production. While the administration hiked supports anyway in its own political maneuver to soothe the farmers, the principle of a flexible approach to the farm problem was salvaged. Unfortunately, the plight of the family-sized farmer was not adequately adjusted by either Congress or the administration.

Congress erred politically and morally by passing the natural gas bill after the question of attempted bribery of a senator was raised on the floor. The good

arguments for the bill were not sufficient to justify passage under the circumstances, as the President pointed out in his veto message. The Senate talked a great deal but did nothing about a needed investigation of lobbies and campaign spending, a pertinent issue raised by the \$2,500 offer to Sen. Case and other instances of excessive pressure by lobbyists. Remedial legislation offered was not seriously considered.

Lowering of the pension age for women and broadening of disability payments under Social Security looked good on the surface, but there was evidence of a lack of study of the financial consequences. Some of the caution and demand for rethinking Congress exhibited on foreign aid should have been applied to the Social Security measure.

Federal aid to education was properly defeated, but not on the real issue. Had debate been concentrated on the pressing needs of the schools, instead of an attempt to tie to racial integration, the states might have been stimulated toward the greater local support of the schools that will be required to block future federal intervention.

The civil rights bill was politically inspired and deserved defeat, but it, too, served a warning—for states to act to protect the constitutional rights of all their citizens. Other measures commendably laid to rest were the revised Bricker amendment and a botched-up reform of the electoral college.

Unfortunately avoided were statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, and the pressing need for changes in the McCarran-Walter Immigration act.

Although some constructive legislation was passed in the 84th's second session, it looked best in putting aside the bad bills.

Russia: The 'Bogy-Man' Revealed

ASK the average American what the average Russian is like and, as likely as not, he will describe a bearded bogeyman with wild hair and badness. The stereotype, of course, is right out of the comic books, the spy movies and Joe McCarthy's political almanac.

Ask for a description of life in the Soviet Union and the reply, to music, would sound suspiciously like THE SONG OF THE VOLGA BOATMEN. Even those who have read Tolstoy may be a little confused. He once wrote: "The Russian is concerned precisely because he knows nothing and cares to know nothing, since he does not believe it possible to know anything fully."

Into this intellectual void have come scholars of Harvard University's Russian Research Center. In an important book published yesterday by the Harvard University Press, they have presented a detailed picture of what life is like under the Soviets—as seen by some 3,000 men and women who have lived inside the system.

The authors are psychologist Raymond A. Bauer, sociologist Alex Inkeles and anthropologist Clyde Kluckhohn. They summarize the results of studies made by the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System, with the support of the U. S. Air Force.

It is a valuable contribution to America's understanding of the masses who live faithfully under the thumb of the real enemies of Western democracy.

The book, entitled HOW THE SOVIET SYSTEM WORKS, results from the first large-scale study of attitudes and life experiences of Soviet citizens who left Russia during and after World War II. Most of them were moved out of their homeland involuntarily by the Germans as prisoners of war or as workers.

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Stalemate On Civil Rights Boosts Stevenson's Prospects

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The delay in introducing the civil rights bill, which has been stalled in the Senate, is widely and justly celebrated. Yet the delay in introducing the bill also helped Lyndon Johnson to frustrate Brownell's scheme. The House was bound to take many weeks to act on the bill. That meant, in turn, that Johnson would have time on his side.

By remarkably astute parliamentary tactics, Johnson narrowly prevented a raging civil rights fight at the wind-up of Congress. Thereby, Johnson greatly impaired the strategy of Stevenson's rivals, who want to use the civil rights issue to split the Democratic convention, and incidentally the ranks of Stevenson's supporters. For Stevenson, therefore, Johnson's ounce of prevention was worth several tons of cure.

It is shocking of course, that the tragic issue of civil rights should have been treated as no better than a political football. But that is the melancholy fact. Beginning at the beginning, if the Eisenhower administration had had the faintest serious desire to pass a civil rights bill, the bill would have been introduced at the beginning of the congressional session and pushed with maximum power thereafter.

NO CHANCE—Instead the administration bill was only offered in May, when it had no possible chance of getting past the usual roadblock of a southern filibuster. The sole intention, obviously, was to encourage the Democrats to stage an intraparty downbreak. The trick savored of that peculiar brand of

slick political smartness for which Attorney General Herbert Brownell is widely and justly celebrated. Yet the delay in introducing the bill also helped Lyndon Johnson to frustrate Brownell's scheme. The House was bound to take many weeks to act on the bill. That meant, in turn, that Johnson would have time on his side.

Throughout the whole session, of course, Johnson had been working overtime to avoid trouble over civil rights. The worst moment was when the Senate had to pass on the nomination of Solicitor General Simon E. Sobell to a circuit court judgeship. Because Sobell had displeased them by his Supreme Court arguments on school desegregation, the more fiery southerners wanted to make the debate on Sobell into a sort of white supremacy field day.

Johnson foresaw that a white supremacy field day would invite senators like Lehman of New York, Hennings of Missouri and Douglas of Illinois to stage a civil rights field day. So he triumphantly held the debate to a minimum, reportedly telling Sen. Olin Johnson of South Carolina, for instance, to cut an angry two-hour rant to a little 20-minute talk.

Johnson's next hurdle was the Republican leadership. If Minority Leader William Knowland of California had chosen to play Brownell's sick trick to the limit, Johnson's bottling up operation could never have succeeded. But President Eisenhower had personally telephoned Johnson to plead for passage of two bills he particularly wanted, the foreign aid bill and the bill to raise executive department salaries. That gave Johnson a lever.

In effect, Johnson told Knowland that the President could either have the bills he had asked for and no civil rights fight, or he could have a civil rights fight and no bills. So Knowland therefore agreed to cooperate with Johnson.

LINES LAID—Thus the lines were neatly laid when the civil rights bill finally came over from the House and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. As the chairman of the Judiciary Committee is Sen. James Eastland of Mississippi, the committee could be counted on to hold the bill until kingdom come unless its hand was forced. But there were only two ways to force the committee's hand, and Johnson had already closed off both of them.

The normal expedient was to offer the civil rights bill as an amendment to another bill. But legislative amendments are not in order on appropriations bills. Johnson had left nothing but appropriations bills for last minute action.

The other expedient was a motion to discharge the Judiciary Committee. But such motions are not in order except during the "morning hour" that follows the end of a legislative day. And by merely reversing instead of adjourning each session, Johnson protracted the Senate's "legislative day" indefinitely. So Lehman, Hennings and the others had to admit defeat.

If a long bitter civil rights debate in the Senate had generated all the usual bitterness just before the Democratic convention, a repeat performance in Chicago would have been quite unavoidable. But with such civil rights as Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt and Sen. Lehman and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota in Stevenson's corner, and with no background of recent bitterness to stir the passions of the convention delegates, the scheme to knock off Stevenson on the civil rights issue now looks a lot less workable.

'Go Ahead — Don't Wait Around For Any Medals'

People's Platform Back Fluoridation



Cliches Won't Fit Walter George

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON (AP)—By one phase of its evolution since then, Mr. Roosevelt's wrath was caused in part by George's conservative views on taxes. Today's conservatives, led by Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey, bitterly oppose the George-advanced amendments extending Social Security help to the disabled, because the amendments will mean higher taxes. They are aiming at a balanced budget and lower taxes.

BACKWARD STEP—To them, George said strongly: "You are trying to take a backward step. These principles fit our times and the American concept that free men want to earn their security. The provision is an earned right; it is timely, practicable and workable." In even stronger language he gave farewell warning to the nation's doctors, who have successfully raised the cry of socialized medicine against all bills they think affect their interests.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON (AP)—In his last meeting with GOP leaders just before Congress adjourned, the President said he was satisfied with the record of the 84th Congress, though not exactly jubilant about the boxscore of accomplishment. Major Bills—The boxscore had been prepared on charts by some of the Madison Avenue advisers, and GOP leaders, looking over Ike's shoulder, could see in separate columns the bills that had: (1) passed the House, (2) passed the Senate, and (3) received the President's signature. Scanning these charts, Eisenhower told the leaders: "I want to thank each of you for all you did to get our program through the Congress. It was a tough job, and I appreciate your efforts. Of course, I didn't get everything I needed. But on the whole I am satisfied with the record."

People's Platform Back Fluoridation

Editors, The News: Permit me to express my appreciation of the fluoride article by Charles Kurat. They may help to avert such a disastrous victory in Charlotte as was won by the crackpots and assorted faddists who misguidedly tried to stir up followers at the polls in Asheville this spring.

Most people like myself are not qualified to discuss the intrinsic merits of fluoridated water, but some of us, thank Heaven, realize who is qualified to express an opinion. In this case the professional legislators, public health officials, and scientific statisticians. It would be positively wonderful if the crackpots could be induced to read a famous essay by the eminent William Graham Sumner entitled, "The Right to an Opinion" in which they start voicing opinions based on a not so profound knowledge of high school chemistry and indeed, medicine.

Hodges School Plan Must Be Approved

Editor, The News: JUST SOME thoughts. It's curious, is it not, that most of these kind folks placing Negroes with white children in the schools invariably are childless, or have grown children out of school. That when you plead for a "realistic" or "sensible" attitude toward integration, you really mean, you really want, and let's be honest, you really want, to see the wise men of editorial writing, that it is curious that the NAACP has inaccurately and shamelessly mis-called themselves, for the word, "Negro" should be substituted for "colored." If they are ashamed of being known as Negroes, what right have they to claim equality with their betters (and all anonymous ranting and all courts can't change the fact that all men are not equal). That Gov. Hodges efforts to keep Negro children out of white schools should be upheld and supported should be the vigor at our command. Just some thoughts of one amongst many in this state, and you'll never change our way of thinking.

Quote, Unquote

Junior suddenly glanced up from the magazine he was reading. "Hey, Pop," he said, "stammered his father, 'a sweater girl is a girl who wears a sweater factory. Where did you get that question?' "Never mind the question, Pop," replied Junior. "Where did you get that answer?" —Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press. A man has reached middle age on a night out means spending the next day in Greensboro (Ga.) News-Journal. I might have gone to West Point but I was too proud to speak to a congressman—Will Rogers.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Ike Was Satisfied With 84th Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—In his last meeting with GOP leaders just before Congress adjourned, the President said he was satisfied with the record of the 84th Congress, though not exactly jubilant about the boxscore of accomplishment. Major Bills—The boxscore had been prepared on charts by some of the Madison Avenue advisers, and GOP leaders, looking over Ike's shoulder, could see in separate columns the bills that had: (1) passed the House, (2) passed the Senate, and (3) received the President's signature. Scanning these charts, Eisenhower told the leaders: "I want to thank each of you for all you did to get our program through the Congress. It was a tough job, and I appreciate your efforts. Of course, I didn't get everything I needed. But on the whole I am satisfied with the record."

IMPROVING THEIR MINDS

THE HERO or heroine or other sympathetic characters should be portrayed as intelligent and morally courageous. This ukase was promulgated (if that is the right word) by the Broadcasting Control Board in Australia; its purpose is to prevent children seeing television programs which might give them the wrong ideas.

On the face of it this sounds most laudable, but in the literary world the board's decree can hardly fail to cause grave concern. The more old-fashioned type of writer has no objection to equipping his hero with moral courage ("Jack could sustain himself no longer. 'You unspeakable cad' he blurted out"); but it is asking a bit too much to expect his heroines to be intelligent. His plots depend almost entirely on the heroine being a prize.

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Junior suddenly glanced up from the magazine he was reading. "Hey, Pop," he said, "stammered his father, 'a sweater girl is a girl who wears a sweater factory. Where did you get that question?' "Never mind the question, Pop," replied Junior. "Where did you get that answer?" —Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press. A man has reached middle age on a night out means spending the next day in Greensboro (Ga.) News-Journal. I might have gone to West Point but I was too proud to speak to a congressman—Will Rogers.