

Senate Republicans Split On Proposal To Change Method Of Electing U. S. President

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—(AP)—A split among Senate Republicans cast doubt today on the fate of a proposal to change the way presidents are elected.

Two Republicans who have been mentioned as possible presidential aspirants in 1952—Senators Taft of Ohio and Lodge of Massachusetts—lined up on opposite sides on a proposed constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college.

Taft, who heads the Senate GOP Policy committee, was out of Washington but was quoted by associates as ready to fight a pending measure by Lodge.

The bill proposes to divide each state's electoral vote among presidential candidates on the basis of how many popular votes they get in the state. At present, the candidate who receives the most popular votes gets all of the state's electoral votes, the other candidates none.

Because it would take the all-or-none gamble out of contests for electoral votes in populous states like New York and Ohio, the measure might make it easier for aspirants from smaller states like Massachusetts and Minnesota to win party presidential nominations.

It also would spread presidential campaigns to all groups of the nation.

Before the change could be written into the Constitution, however, it would have to have approval of two-thirds of those voting in the Senate and House as well as ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Showdown Sought

Lodge told a reporter he will ask for a showdown on party sentiment at a GOP caucus.

Failure to get two-thirds approval of those voting in the Senate would kill the measure.

Lodge said that if each state's electoral vote had been divided on the basis of the popular votes, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, the 1948 GOP presidential nominee, would have received 221.4 electoral votes instead of 189 in the last presidential election.

President Truman, who still would have been elected if the Lodge measure had been in operation.

tion, would have seen his electoral vote cut from 303 to 258, with the remainder going to minor party candidates.

Supreme Court Orders Train-Car Crash Case Heard

SALEM, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The state supreme court Tuesday ordered the Multnomah county circuit court to hear a \$3,150 damage suit which resulted from a collision of a car and a train.

Circuit Judge James R. Bain, Portland, had thrown the case out of court. The high court, in a 4-to-2 decision by Justice Harry H. Belt, ordered that the case be heard.

Allan T. Finn and the Employers Mutual Liability Insurance company of Wisconsin sued the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railway for \$3,150.

On Jan. 17, 1947, Finn's automobile struck a freight train at Northwest Vaughn and 22nd avenue in Portland, Finn, who was injured, claimed that weather conditions made it impossible to see the train, which was on a rarely-used spur track.

Finn claimed the railroad was negligent because it didn't have a flagman for the train, which was stopped on the crossing.

Oklahoma Slashes Old Age Pensions

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Oklahoma's 101,000 old age pensioners will have to get by on 13 percent less assistance after April 1.

The State Public Welfare commission has ordered the slash in assistance payments. An emergency cut to all persons receiving more than \$50 per month was also ordered for the month of March.

The action was taken the commission said, because the reserve fund next month would be down to \$600,000, the minimum necessary for operation.

The legislature set up the present system in 1948.

With the fund dwindling from \$6 million in less than two years, welfare director Virgil Stokes said there was no immediate hope for additional income.

The reduction in March will affect 68,337 persons, Stokes said. He told commission members that slightly dropping living cost made the reduced assistance reasonable. He added that Oklahoma is now paying the highest assistance in the nation based upon per capita income.

Joe Dunn, state tax commission chairman, said the same revenue can be expected from sales tax collections in 1950 as in 1949. That lacks about \$300,000 monthly of meeting the old age assistance program.

The state paid out approximately \$7,000,000 last year. The federal government matches payments only up to \$5 per month while Oklahoma's maximum has been \$58.



Howard A. Houlik, boatswain's mate, first class, USN, of Route 3, Roseburg, Ore., greets his wife, Kathryn, on her recent arrival at Pearl Harbor, T. H., aboard the Naval transport, USS General Butler. Houlik is currently on duty in Pearl Harbor.

(Official U.S. Navy Photograph—1057543)

Interior Department Secretary Sees Need For Additional National Parks

By VERN HAUGLAND

(For James Marlow)

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Secretary of the Interior Chapman says the United States needs more national parks, especially along oceanfronts and lakeshores.

He says the federal government also ought to speed up the acquisition of some 550,000 acres of private lands now inside the national parks.

At the rate of land acquisition with funds now available, says Chapman, the process will take at least 100 years. The private lands tend to become more expensive as time passes, and there is the further danger that some of their park values may be lost if they remain in private hands.

Follow Steps of Krug

Chapman recently aired his views on National Park service problems before the national conference on state parks. In general his policies follow those of his predecessor, J. A. Krug. Like Krug, he stresses the point that there shall be no encroachment upon the parks "unless the welfare or the safety of the nation requires it."

He has gone further than Krug in indicating that where rival recreational and water-use needs of an area are equal, he may be on the side of interior's reclamation bureau against interior's park service.

"Where the construction of a reservoir, dam or transmission line would damage scenic, scientific, historical or recreational resources of greater value to the nation than the economic benefits anticipated, the greater value should be protected," Chapman says.

"However, we cannot fail to recognize that the needs of a rising population and an expanding economy are giving increased importance to our programs for development and utilization of the nation's limited water and other natural resources."

Chapman says that all the lands now used by federal agencies, states or communities for parks and recreation are inadequate for

an increasing—and increasingly leisured—population.

"The United States as a whole is especially lacking in beach and coastal lands," he says. "Opportunities to preserve ocean and lake front lands are fast diminishing. We need to accelerate the effort to get the best of what is left."

Chapman says he also is strongly in favor of:

1. Careful appraisal of the recreational possibilities of reclamation projects now being built throughout the west, and possible park service administration of a few such areas of national importance.
2. Better planning for the nation's recreational needs and facilities.
3. Early resumption of the recreational surveys begun before the war.

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