SENATE IMPOTENT UNDER OWN RULES

Wisconsin Senator Craftily Bends Others to Purpose at Fateful Crisis.

MAJORITY IS POWERLESS

Action Necessary to Show Germany That Nation Is United in Defense of Its Citizens Is Prevented by Technicalities.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—(Special.)—Bow down and worship, ye people of the United States before the rules of the United States Senate. They are stronger than your will—stronger than the will of nine-tenths of the body which made those rules. The created is greater than the creator. It is a god, fashioned by men, yet which must be slavishly obeyed.

Surely never such a spectacle has been witnessed as that which took place last night and this morning in a legislative assembly, the greatest deliberative body in the world, as its members love to call it. To save themselves from the wrath of the people, in order to place the responsibility for the failure of the armed neutrality bill, 76 of the 96 members of the Senate deemed it necessary to resort to the extraordinary and unprecedented method of signing a "round robin" declaring they would have voted for the measure if opportunity to do so had been afforded them. That opportunity was denied by the god that must be obeyed—the rules of the Senate.

La Follette Leader of Filibuster.

In the course of the debate there were crimination and recrimination, criticism and censure, charges and counter charges, confession of humiliated hearts and burning words descriptive of the disgrace brought upon the Senate and the Nation by those powerless to overthrow the mighty force bending the Senate to its will.

There were wailing and gnashing of teeth by men unable to act. But they drank the bitterness and gall. And the god that must be obeyed grinned.

Back of the God that must be obeyed, holding him rigidly to his task of throttling the desire of the President and the people was Robert Marion La Follette, a Senator of the United States from Wisconsin. All through the night, La Follette used first and then another of the men with whom he was in frequent consultation to prevent the Senate from sanctioning the desire of the President of the United States to protect American life and American rights.

Record Silent as to Details.

Only this morning, when he expected to do the dramatic thing—his usual procedure—of carrying the bill on to the moment the Congress expired, was he forced to appear in the open, and then he found, ostensibly to his disgust, that Senator Hitchcock had taken the floor from him. He did register a single objection to unanimous consent to a vote; he did declaim against the deprivation of his right to speak through the recognition by the chair of Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska. He did point to a desk piled with books and papers to which he intended to refer during the closing four hours as proof of his industry and his capacity to talk that length of time.

But he can afford to be satisfied, if he can find any satisfaction in his act, for he accomplished his purpose. Moreover, he is free to tell his people anything he may desire and they cannot say him nay for the reason that the record does not disclose in any detail the attitude which his whispering conduct on the floor and his frequent conferences in the cloakroom and committee-rooms show him to have adopted.

La Follette's sorriest triumph lay in the way in which he secured the service of half a dozen tools who took the floor when he needed them and who carried out the directions of the god that must be obeyed. Possibly he would have avoided objecting to a vote had not conditions made it necessary.

Particularly did he encourage the men whom he was manipulating. Sometimes he would sit in his chair, nodding approval at the poor dupe who was carrying out his plans. Occasionally his lips could be seen fashioning the word "Good," or the words "That's right," but not a sound emanated from him at such times and so far as the record is concerned, he said nothing.

Able Men Made Dupes.

It is a pity, a great pity, that able, honest men lent themselves to the use to which LaFollette put them. There were Clapp, of Minnesota; Cummins and Kenyon, of Iowa; Gronna, of North Dakota; Norris, of Nebraska; Works, of California, Republicans; Kirby, of Arkansas; O'Gorman, of New York; Stone, of Missouri, and Vardaman, of Mississippi, Democrats.

On these lies the blame for the failure of the Senate to give the President the legislation which, while not absolutely essential, was essential to show Germany, who proposed an alliance with Japan and Mexico against the United States, the solidarity of the American people. Kenyon and O'Gorman freed themselves from the record by never opening their mouths; they are in a position to make any public statement they please, even to say they would have voted for the bill, if political expediency indicates such a statement to be desirable. Nor is their silence surprising to those who know these men with the exception, perhaps, of O'Gorman. But on Kenyon and O'Gorman rests a responsibility equally as great as that which burdens the shoulders of LaFollette and his other tools; for had they favored the measure there would have been better chance to secure action.

If they should ever say to their constituents that if the bill had come to a vote they would have supported it, those constituents should ask: "Why, then, did you not sign the round robin?"

What are the rules of the United States Senate which make that body impotent and how did La Follette operate them? Read them carefully:

"Rule XIX—No Senator shall interrupt another Senator in debate without his consent, and, to obtain such consent, he shall first address the presiding officer, and no Senator shall speak more than twice upon any one question on debate on the same day without leave of the Senate, which shall be determined without debate."

"Rule XXI—No request by a Senator for unanimous consent for the taking of a final vote on a specified date upon the passage of a bill or joint resolution shall be submitted to the Senate for agreement thereto, until, upon a roll call, ordered for the purpose by the presiding officer, it shall be disclosed that a quorum of the Senate is present; and when a unanimous consent is thus given the same shall operate as the order of the Senate, but any unanimous consent may be revoked by another unanimous consent granted in the manner prescribed above upon one day's notice."

WE ARE WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

CONGRESS IS DEFIED

Twelve Senators Defeat Will in National Emergency.

CLOSING DEBATE IS BITTER

Forces Are Led by La Follette and Supported by Stone—Action Is Denounced as Most Reprehensible in History.

(Continued From First Page.)

ing, Jones, Lodge, McCumber, McLean, Nelson, Oliver, Page, Poindexter, Sherman, Smith, Michigan; Smoot, Sterling, Sutherland, Townsend, Wadsworth, Warren, Watson and Weeks—30.

Of the seven Senators not recorded, three, Gallinger and Goff, Republicans, and Gore, Democrat, were absent on account of sickness. Senators Lippet, Republican, and Johnson, of Maine, and Smith, of Arizona, Democrats, were absent from the city. Senator Culberson, Democrat, did not reach the Senate in time to be recorded.

Hours before the end Senators who fought through the night to break down the filibuster conceived a way to thwart LaFollette's well-laid plans to occupy the center of the legislative stage at the climax of the bitter fight. Its execution brought the session to a dramatic end, with LaFollette fighting vainly for a chance to deliver a speech on which he had worked many days.

He saw friends of the doomed legislation inflict the death blow which he planned.

LaFollette's Opportunity Gone.

Instead of LaFollette, Senator Hitchcock, leader of the majority in favor of the bill, talked out the waning hours of the session. Timing his opportunity to the minute, Senator LaFollette entered the Senate Chamber shortly after nine o'clock this morning prepared to take the center of the stage for the last act of the tragedy. When the moment he had chosen arrived he addressed the chair, but Senator Hitchcock prevented his recognition.

The forensic struggle which ensued seldom if ever had been equalled in the history of the Senate. Voices were strained to shrieking, threatening fists were shaken at the presiding officer, while the crowded floor and galleries looked on breathlessly. But the incident soon passed without violence. The chair recognized Senator Hitchcock and LaFollette's opportunity was snatched away.

Ten minutes before the end, Senator Hitchcock had made his last appeal for unanimous consent for a vote on the bill. LaFollette objected.

The Nebraska Senator, prefacing his closing remarks with a portion of President Wilson's address to Congress asking for the authority about to be denied, solemnly said:

"It is unfortunate and deplorable that 12 men in the Senate of the United States have it in their power to defeat the will of 75 to 80 members by one of the most reprehensible filibusters ever recorded in the history of any civilized country."

Senator Hitchcock paused while his words echoed through the chamber. LaFollette stolidly glared toward the Nebraskan, who presently added that perhaps he should apologize for the violence of his words.

"You are perfectly safe," LaFollette returned without rising from his chair. "No one can answer you."

No one did, for the noon hour had struck and the Sixty-fourth Congress was ended.

Leaders Try to Prevent Defeat.

Before the manifesto was presented, many Democratic and Republican leaders worked unceasingly to prevent the inevitable defeat of the bill. After midnight they practically abandoned the fight and prepared the manifesto to record the real sentiment of the Senate on the subject.

The defeated Senators determind to make Senator LaFollette pay for his coup by sacrificing the crowning fruits of his victory. The plan to prevent him from delivering his address to the Senate was made quietly in the cloakrooms and the time was fixed for 10 o'clock this morning, when most of the Senators would be back in the chamber ready for adjournment.

LaFollette, looking fresh and eager, entered the chamber while Senator Owen was speaking. When Senator Owen started to take his seat both Hitchcock and LaFollette addressed the chair. Senator Saulsbury, presiding, under the rules, would be compelled to recognize the man who addressed him first. The chair recognized Senator Hitchcock, but LaFollette interrupted.

Point of Order Defied.

"At 8 o'clock this morning," he said, "when I sought recognition I was told that when the Vice-President left the chair he had left a list with the names of two Senators upon it who might be recognized before I could be recognized. They are Senators Owen and Hitchcock. I recall that sometimes these lists are disregarded by presiding officers and I would like to know if I am to be recognized."

Senator Robinson immediately made a point of order that it was not a proper inquiry under the Senate rules.

"I do not care," LaFollette shouted, "what point of order the Senator makes."

The Arkansas Senator insisted on addressing the chair again and LaFollette moved out into the center aisle and down into the well before the clerk's desk.

The almost deserted Senate chamber quickly began to fill. Democrats hastened in to enjoy the spectacle of a filibuster pitted against a filibuster. LaFollette, quickly sensing the situation, raised his voice almost to a shriek and shaking his forefinger menacingly at Senator Saulsbury, shouted:

"I will continue on the floor until I complete my statement unless somebody carries me off the floor, and I would like to see the man to do it."

Before LaFollette could conclude the sentence, Senator Robinson leaped to his feet and stamped down the aisle on the Democratic side, shouting demands that his point of order be sustained and that LaFollette be forced to his seat.

Senator Saulsbury promptly sustained the point of order and LaFollette as promptly appealed from his ruling. Senator Robinson quickly moved to table LaFollette's appeal—an undebatable motion—and there the coup against LaFollette was clinched.

"The ayes and noes!" shouted Senator Ashurst. His name heads the list and always starts the rollcall.

"Ashurst," called the clerk, while LaFollette frantically appealed for the recognition which he saw was doomed.

Ashurst responded with a roaring "Aye."

The motion carried, 53 to 18.

Thus beaten in his plan to talk the bill to death, LaFollette was forced to sit and hear Hitchcock discuss the measure until Congress expired.

LaFollette Renews Objection.

Shortly after 11 o'clock Senator Hitchcock proposed an agreement for a vote on the House bill at 11:30. Senator Stone said he objected to the bill, but not to voting on it.

"I object now and will object again as often as the request is made," said Senator LaFollette.

"The Senator from Wisconsin is constantly violating the rules of the Senate," interjected Senator Williams.

"Of course," was the reply. "So are you—you have not been recognized at all." He then declared his objection again.

"I still desire to be heard," he added.

"The Senator has been heard," interjected Senator Smith of Georgia, but LaFollette dissented.

"Did the Senator from Georgia say that that was not true?" asked the Wisconsin Senator, rising again from his seat.

"Yes."

"The Senator from Georgia states a falsehood when he says that," LaFollette rejoined.

Senator Smith rose to his feet but smiled and later the two exchanged opinions to the same effect but in different and milder language.

Objection Maintained to Last.

The talk was resumed by Senator Hitchcock while Senator La Follette and Senator Norris, his chief lieutenant in the fight, sat and watched. At 11:43 with only 17 minutes of the session remaining, Mr. Hitchcock again proposed a unanimous agreement for a vote at 11:45 o'clock.

"I object," said La Follette, rising to his feet and smiling. The roll was called under the rules and 88 Senators answered. The clerk read the proposed agreement as the rules required.

"I object," said the Wisconsin Senator, smiling.

A minute later he objected to Senator Hitchcock retaining the floor longer because he contended business had intervened—the calling of a quorum—and that having already spoken twice on the situation on the one legislative day the rules required him to yield the floor. Senator Robinson, then presiding, quickly ruled that there had been no such intervening business. Before it got to a ruling a motion was carried to grant Senator Hitchcock the right to continue.

By that time less than five minutes remained of the life of the Congress, and Senator Robinson, still presiding, interrupted Senator Hitchcock on the stroke of 12 to declare the Senate adjourned sine die.

POWER IS LACKING

President Needs Legislation for Effective Action.

NATION FACES DISASTER

In Statement to People, Wilson Attacks Group of Wilful Men, Who Made Nation Contemptible. New Rules Advised.

(Continued From First Page.)

industry have both failed, though they have been under consideration throughout the sessions of two Congresses and have been twice passed by the House of Representatives.

"The appropriations for the Army have failed, along with the appropriations for the civil establishment of the Government, the appropriations for the Military Academy at West Point, and the general deficiency bill. It has proved impossible to extend the powers of the Shipping Board to meet the special needs of the new situation into which our commerce has been forced or to increase the gold reserve of our National banking system to meet the unusual circumstances of the existing financial situation.

Senate Remains Paralyzed.

"It would not cure the difficulty to call the 65th Congress in extraordinary session. The paralysis of the Senate would remain. The purpose and the spirit of action are not lacking now. The Congress is more definitely united in thought and purpose at this moment, I venture to say, than it has been within the memory of any man now in its membership. There is not only the most united patriotic purpose but the objects members have in view are perfectly clear and definite. But the Senate cannot act unless its leaders can obtain unanimous consent. Its majority is powerless, helpless. In the midst of a crisis of extraordinary peril, when only definite and decided action can make the Nation safe or shield it from war itself by the aggression of others, action is impossible.

"Although as a matter of fact the Nation and the representatives of the Nation stand back of the executive with unprecedented unanimity and spirit, the impression made abroad will, of course, be that it is not so, and that other governments may act as they please without fear that this Government can do anything at all. We cannot explain. The explanation is incredible.

Only One Remedy Presented.

"The Senate of the United States is the only legislative body in the world that cannot act when its majority is ready for action. A little group of willful men, representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great Government of the United States helpless and contemptible.

"The remedy? There is but one remedy. That is the rules of the Senate shall be so altered that it can act. The country can be relied upon to draw the moral. I believe that the Senate can be relied upon to supply the means of action and save the country from disaster."

At the same time the President authorized the further statement that what rendered the situation even more grave than it had been supposed that it was, was the discovery that, while the President, under his general constitutional powers, could do much of what he had asked Congress to empower him to do, it had been found that there were certain old statutes as yet unrepealed which raised insuperable practical obstacles and virtually may nullify his power.

Old Law Stands in Way.

The old law referred to by the President was passed by Congress in 1819 and referred to the resistance of American merchantmen against the attack on privateers and privates, but excluded from vessels which might be so attacked "a public armed vessel of a nation in amity with the United States."

Technically Germany is not at war with the United States and submarines are "public armed vessels" of Germany.

The President's statement followed a conference at the White House between Mr. Wilson, Secretary McAdoo, Postmaster-General Burleson, Colonel E. M. House, Vance G. McCormick and Secretary Tumulty.

ACCIDENT CURES OLD HURT

Girl Hit by Auto, However, May Die From Other Injuries.

VALLEJO, Cal., March 4.—Being knocked down and dragged more than 80 feet by a runaway automobile tonight cured 19-year-old Lucile Hamilton of a hip trouble that made her a cripple for 10 years, but the same doctors who discovered the hip correction declared that the young woman probably would die from the injuries she sustained to her skull and spine.

She was struck by an automobile that had been left standing on a steep grade and which started on its downward career when some children playing with the steering wheel turned the wheels out from the curb.

Postoffice Messenger Injured.

Forrest Wilson, 1024 East Main street, special delivery messenger for the Postoffice Department, was severely injured last night when the motorcycle which he was riding skidded at Crosby and Larrabee streets and threw him heavily to the pavement. He was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital. His injuries are thought not to be serious.

CO-ED WON BY STUDENT

MISS ROBERTA KILLAM, OF PORTLAND, ENGAGED TO ALASKAN.

Announcement of Betrothal Is Campus Surprise of Oregon—Edward Harwood Is Bridegroom-to-Be.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., March 4.—(Special.)—The exchange of a diamond ring and fraternity pin as a climax to a college romance last night set the campus atune with the midnight music of serenaders. It was the members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and Delta Gamma Sorority celebrating the betrothal of Miss Roberta Killam, of Portland, and a member of the staff of the Oregon Emerald, college paper, to Edward P. Harwood, of Cordova, Alaska, managing editor of the Emerald.

Following the serenade each house feted the principals and telephones were kept busy with the exchange of mutual congratulations. It was not until the wee sma' hours of the morning that the final echoes of the jolly crowd died away and "Ed" flatly refused longer to pass the treats around.

Mr. Harwood is the third successive managing editor of the Emerald to have become engaged in the junior year.

Delta Gamma honored their new "brother" today with a dinner and tomorrow the couple will run the gauntlet of campus congratulations.

The news of the betrothal came as a complete surprise to the friends of the principals.

CLUB TO DISCUSS PLANS

New Laurelhurst Home Will Be Topic Wednesday Night.

Plans for the new Laurelhurst clubhouse will be informally discussed at a smoker of the men members in the present club rooms at East Thirty-ninth and Ankeny streets on Wednesday evening of this week.

The architects have completed plans for a new building to rise on the site of the present one, and it is hoped to begin actual work early this Spring. The new clubhouse is to cost $40,000 or $50,000, and will be financed by the members. Plans for financing the enterprise will be formed at Wednesday evening's meeting.

The Laurelhurst club now has 500 members on its rolls and has outgrown the present quarters. Tentative plans for the new home call for one of the most modern and most serviceable community centers on the Pacific Coast.

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Non-spi. 50c 50c Odor-ono 45c
Senreco Tooth Paste on sale now at 25c
75c Castle Soap on sale at 49c
$2.50 Hair Brush now at $1.49
$2.25 Ivory Hair Brush now at $1.39
10c Skat on sale at three for 19c
10c Flash on sale at three for 19c
10c Ivory Soap on sale at three for 24c
10c Palmolive Soap on sale now at 7c
$1.00 Othine on sale now at only 85c
50c Stillman Freckle Cream on sale at 39c

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50c Woven Shopping Bags, with lining to hide your packages 39c
20c Woven Shopping Bags now at 19c
$3.50 and $4.00 Handbags at $2.49
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75c and 85c Coin Purses now at 49c
75c assortment Coin Purses now at 39c

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—We have just received five colorings of the most attractive soft Borcelinos we have ever shown, all of the most beautiful texture and fineness.

—Green, dark gray, pearl, with matched band, pearl with black band and cocoa.

—The war has made it difficult to get Borcelino orders filled, and this importation will be all we can expect to receive for several months. They are now, more than ever, a real hat luxury.

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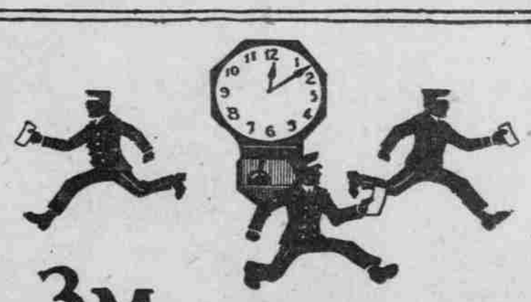

3 Messages Every Clock Tick

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