

Congressmen Agree on Weekend Policy

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Register-Guard Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Special) — The highest success at reaching bipartisan accord between battling Republicans and Democrats in this closely divided 84th Congress is not in the lofty realm of foreign policy or national defense, but on how congressmen should be free from anxiety about their weekends—nice, long weekends.

The unwritten rule, in both

House and Senate to which members of both parties adhere with fantastic harmony is that any one of the 435 representatives or 99 senators is free to join the "Thursday to Tuesday Club."

That's the unchartered chowder and marching society headed by eastern congressmen who are in Washington, D.C., in midweek between trips home or elsewhere that stretch from Thursday night to Tuesday morning. The invention of the airplane, of course, enhanced the club's attractiveness to westerners as well.

announcement from Majority Leader John McCormack (D-Mass), who fairly oozes political savoir-fair. He will put it like this to his breathless colleagues who have rushed in from the floor room with train schedules in hand:

"Monday we'll take up H.R. 6996, the anti-visitation bill (groans rise, heavily from the chamber at the thought of voting on this momentous issue) and there will be two hours general debate. Voting on the bill will be held over until Tuesday."

Looking at this rate of speed, one can readily understand the good men and true being groggy by Friday and in bad need of rest. Sometimes they reverse the process and labor long and loud to produce one bill, like last Thursday when the House convened at 10 a.m., two hours earlier than usual, and ran until 7:25 that night to complete work on the public works money bill and clear the deck for the long weekend. The Senate, always seeking the last word, ran until 7:33 p.m. cleaning up the Commerce Department fund bill.

Scientist Tracks Moon With Jet

CLARK AIR FORCE BASE, P.I. — An American scientist zoomed after the moon in a 600-mile-an-hour T33 jet trainer plane Monday and said he was able to see the eclipse five minutes longer as a result.

"The phenomenon was far more pronounced and clear than any other eclipse I have observed from the ground," said Frank Back, president of Zoomar Inc., New York. "The sky was full of stars—we could observe stars of the third magnitude."

Back said the flight set a precedent for future eclipse observations. "We don't have to depend on the weather, and we can even extend eclipses of short duration."

Back flew at an altitude of 38,000.

FLOOR ACTION RIGGED

This doesn't mean that the Congress of the United States is out of action every Friday and Monday—at least not utterly. But plans for floor action are usually rigged so as not to embarrass any of the club members who have lengthy weekend engagements, either personal or political.

If the House meets, for example, on Monday, this inconvenient show of legislative labor will usually be preceded the previous week by an an-

COAST IS CLEAR

In language a voter might better understand, McCormack would be saying: "Monday a handful of members of the committee which handled the anti-visitation bill will be delegated to read their argument pro and con, or simply to insert them in the Congressional Record for that day. But don't worry, boys, the coast is clear because we won't have any roll calls until Tuesday."

From Tuesday through Thursday, however, the lawmakers really grind out the fresh new statutes. Tuesday, June 7, the House clipped off 99 bills between noon and 2:33 p.m. that afternoon when it quit for the day. Tuesday, June 14, the Senate punched out 90 separate bills between noon and 4:43 p.m. Both chambers employed an old device called the unanimous consent calendar to do the job—a kind of legislative automation.

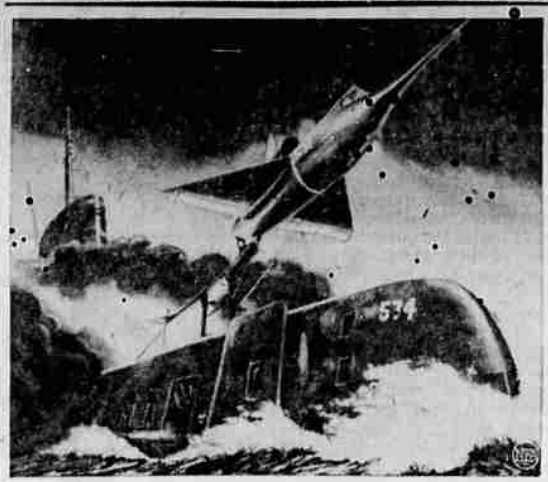
PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE

All this high-powered time-table of the nation's lawmaking is in the nature of psychosomatic medicine for the politician who sprouts ulcers just thinking about the next election campaign when Candidate Joe Blow tries to unseat him with the great discovery that he was absent that Monday the vote was unexpectedly taken on the omnibus pork barrel bill.

Now he doesn't have to think about such a fearful possibility. He knows it won't happen. Because everybody is a member of the Thursday to Tuesday Club, and the member who would blunder into calling for an unscheduled vote on Friday or Monday would later gladly swap his case of cold shoulder for a dose of poison ivy.

In an organization where success is measured by the number of your friends, no one violates the rules.

Turncoats Want to Go In Different Directions



UP FROM THE DEEP—This sketch, made for Mechanix Illustrated, shows a jet plane zooming skyward after being launched from an atomic-powered submarine. According to the magazine, A-bomb-carrying jets could be carried under water by the subs in special hangars below deck. After a mission, planes would land in the water on skis and be retrieved by the sub.

LONDON — The three American soldiers who changed their minds about Red China all want to leave the country different ways, the Communist Daily Worker correspondent in Peiping reported Monday.

Cpl. William A. Cowart of Dalton, Ga., wants to go to Japan to live.

Lewis W. Griggs, from Jacksonville, Texas, plans making straight for the United States by way of Hong Kong.

Otho G. Bell, of Olympia, Wash., wants to go to the United States via Moscow, Prague and London.

The Daily Worker correspondent, British-born Alan Winnington, who covered the Korean War from the Communist side, said "Cowart's aim in Japan is to live on the black market fringe of the U. S. occupation."

The three soldiers were among 21 American prisoners of war who refused repatriation when the Korean conflict ended.

The Daily Worker's dispatch said that Cowart received \$500 from America recently and spent it all on a final good time spree in the Chinese capital. Winnington said he interviewed him in a cafe and the American told him:

"I don't like the American way of life, but I don't like the Chinese way either.

"This is what I like — find a place like this, sit drinking some beer, find a girl, go dancing.

"They take life pretty seriously here. I can't make the grade."

The Communist correspondent said the rest of the Allied prisoners who chose communism — 17 Americans, 1 Briton and 1 Belgian — are still happy in China.

"Twelve are now studying hard at the People's University at Peiping, while seven are working in a state-owned Shantung paper mill, one as a chemist, the others as maintenance machinists."

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