



President and Envoy—President Soekarno (left) of U. S. of Indonesia, chats with Merle Cochran, U. S. A. ambassador, at a reception by new nation in Jakarta (Batavia).

Some of Truman's Pet Bills May Be Slaughtered Without a Vote

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—Some of President Truman's program may get slaughtered without ever coming to a vote. This is because congressmen know more way of killing a bill than voting it down or trying to talk it to death. The house rules committee is giving a good example of that now. First, a little history of that committee.

A great many bills are introduced in the house every year. The house doesn't have time to consider all of them.

Which shall it choose? Long ago is set up a committee of its members called the rules committee.

This committee was supposed to act as a funnel through which bills would be let out on the floor for debate and vote.

If the committee wanted to kill a bill by refusing to let it out, that just about killed it. It took a petition signed by a majority of the house members to pry loose a bill turned down by the rules committee.

For many years there were great complaints against this kind of power given to one little group of committeemen.

Along came the election of President Truman in 1948 with his Fair Deal program and particularly that part of it which promised new civil rights laws, mostly for the benefit of negroes.

Mr. Truman's Democrats won control of the house, too. So when this congress began its session in January, 1949, the Trumanites looked at the make-up of the rules committee.

There were 12 members on it: Eight democrats and four republicans. But four of those eight democrats were southern democrats.

If the four southern democrats teamed up with the four republicans, that would put the Trumanite democrats of four in a small minority. And—

Any time the team of republicans and southern democrats wanted to bottle up some of the Truman program and keep it from a vote, they could just vote in the committee to bottle it up.

Well, the majority of the men in congress decided they'd take that kind of power away from the rules committee. And the house established a new rule. This was it:

If the rules committee has sat on a bill for 21 days, it can be called up in the house anyway. The rules committee can't stop it. This gives 435 members a chance to decide whether they want to pass the bill.

That's what happened in 1949. But now suddenly a majority of the rules committee—southern democrats teaming up with republicans—want their old power back.

They voted the other day to ask the full house to vote this year on whether the rules committee can have back its old power to sit on a bill indefinitely.

The rules committee may win, in spite of President Truman's protest over the maneuver. This is one of the reasons:

There's a bill in congress to give veterans a bonus. This comes at a time when congress is shouting economy.

If that bill gets out on the floor for a vote—since this is the year when all 435 house members must stand for reelection and face the voters on their record—a majority of the house may vote for it through fear of antagonizing the veteran vote.

So, if the rules committee could conveniently sit on that bill—provided the house gave it back its old power to do so—this would save a lot of congressmen from the embarrassment of

New Element Is Heaviest

Berkeley, Calif., Jan. 19 (AP)—The University of California cyclotrons have produced another new element—this one the heaviest known.

The new substance, No. 97 in the atomic scale, is the fifth to be produced by the cyclotron's atomic particle bombardments.

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, 37-year-old professor of chemistry at the university, said it probably would be named "Berkeleium," in honor of the university city.

The element was discovered

December 19 but its announcement was withheld pending necessary approval by the atomic energy commission.

What the new element is like and what might be done with it were not announced. Dr. Seaborg said theoretical considerations rule out its use in atomic weapons.

Investigations of its properties are continuing.

Dr. Seaborg named two research associates, Dr. Stanley G. Thompson, 37, and Albert Thirso, 35, as co-discoverers of the new element.

Dr. Seaborg has been co-discoverer of four of the five new elements produced in the Berkeley cyclotrons: Plutonium, Americium, curium and now the tentatively named Berkeleium.

The fifth was neptunium. The University of California cyclotrons are machines which are capable of changing known substances into other, entirely different substances.

Snow Brings Halt Upon Dam Project

Mill City—Notices have been posted about town in various business houses stating that Detroit Dam work will not be continued until the weather breaks. When all work was stopped Friday noon there was between 4 and 5 feet of snow at the project.

The Mill City Women's club meeting was cancelled this week due to the bad weather. The meeting was also cancelled two weeks ago for the same reason.

If Your Pants Are Zoot, You Get Boot in Baltimore

Baltimore, Jan. 19 (AP)—If your pants are zoot, you get the boot. Pegged pants, it seems, are strictly taboo at some Baltimore recreation centers. And teen-agers who sport the too-tight trousers are setting up a howl—with some support from the older generation.

It's known as the ruler treatment. Show up with trousers that are less than 17 inches around at the cuffs, and out you go. No dancing for cut-down pants fanciers.

The measure (no pun intended) was brought to the attention of the city council by Mrs. M. J. Greeley. She claims it's

zootometer, according to teen-agers are "semi-drape" (16) and "really it" (14).

Harold S. Callowhill, superintendent of the recreation bureau, admitted that the ruler treatment was being used at some centers at the request of youngsters there. "Extreme dress is permissible in other centers where such a dress is customary in the neighborhood," he said.

Extreme dress, he said, leads to poor behavior. Mrs. Greeley contended, however, that any such ruling defeats the purpose of the centers.

The council took the question under study.

Insect Sprays Get Defense

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—Insect sprays are necessary to maintain production of fruits and vegetables, agriculture department scientists said Wednesday.

Other methods of controlling insects have been tried without materially reducing the need for insecticides, they told a food and drug administration hearing called to determine whether the sprays are harmful to consumers.

Dr. Bennet A. Porter, specialist in fruit insecticides in the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, said the cost of spraying is high, but growers would go out of business if they didn't use chemicals.

Some apple growers, he said, spend more than \$100 an acre to control insects in their orchards.

Dr. Fred C. Bishopp, chief of the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, said that the alternation of various types of insecticides would reduce health hazards.

He added that insects themselves build up resistance to a poison if the same type is used continuously.

Dr. Bishopp agreed that insecticides are man's most dependable defense against insect pests.

He said that food production would drop and prices increase if they were not used.

The hearing, which began Tuesday, is expected to last a year. It was occasioned largely by recent reports that the residue of chemicals on fruits and vegetables may be causing human ailments and disease.

Dinner Plans Changed
Amity—The fellowship dinner scheduled for the Baptist church Friday evening has been postponed until February.

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