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Cabinet Plan Of Succession Has Trouble

Temporary Presidency Proposal Attacked By Rayburn

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.) reportedly has told President Eisenhower that if he makes a personal request for "temporary presidential" legislation, people will think he plans to give up active presidential service.

An informed source, who declined to be quoted by name, said today Rayburn told this to Eisenhower yesterday during a White House conference with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. Eisenhower was said to have replied that he didn't see how such an inference could be drawn.

Amendment Explained

At this conference, Eisenhower proposed a Constitutional amendment to authorize the Cabinet to decide by majority vote when the Vice President should assume temporarily the duties of a disabled President who was unable or unwilling to make the decision himself.

Rayburn opposed the idea strongly. Other congressional leaders voiced more guarded reactions, but none indicated enthusiasm for the Eisenhower plan.

The Constitution provides that the Vice President shall take over the duties of the President in the event of the President's resignation, ouster, death or disability. But it does not spell out how a decision is to be reached on when a President is disabled, nor who should make the decision.

Keating Bill Introduced

After Eisenhower's proposal was announced yesterday, Rep. Keating of New York, senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, introduced a bill to provide for a commission to pass on whether a President is disabled. Such a commission would be made up of members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Supreme Court.

There is a difference of opinion over whether the Constitutional gap should be plugged by a bill or by a Constitutional amendment. And there are those who, like Rayburn, feel there is no need for any action.

In view of the wide range of opinions on the question, Democratic leaders were reported to have agreed informally that nothing will be done at this session. However, Sen. A. W. C. Republican Leader Knowland of California said yesterday the matter is of "sufficient importance that the Congress may very well act this year on it."

Hearings Planned

Chairman Celler (D-N.Y.) of the House Judiciary Committee said he plans to go ahead with hearings and to bring out legislation to deal with the problem.

The informant who told of what went on at the conference said Eisenhower joined in a laugh that followed Rayburn's blunt expression of opinion. But Eisenhower is understood to have heeded the Texan's advice not to send Congress a special letter asking for presidential disability legislation.

Instead, Atty. Gen. Brownell will go before a House Judiciary Subcommittee Monday to spell out the administration proposal.

Rayburn was said to have told the President the country has gotten along very well through the years without special arrangements for temporary succession to the presidency, and that if Eisenhower were to send up a special letter on the subject it would lead to a lot of talk that he is in poor condition and is preparing to relinquish the active presidency.

Douglas Urges ADA to Throw Out Any Reds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Douglas (D-Ill.) today urged the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) to throw out any Communists who might slip into the organization of self-typed "liberals."

Douglas, in a keynote speech prepared for ADA's 10th anniversary convention, said a pledge of non-membership in the Communist party or in any totalitarian organization still is a basic qualification for belonging to the ADA. He voiced confidence that "we will not relax our vigilance" against any Red interlopers.

Under Moscow Control

The senator said that despite their "internal difficulties" the American Communists "are still under the control of Moscow."

Douglas praised ADA's decade of work in behalf of social measures and civil rights. He said "totalitarianism and man-made barriers of faint-heartedness, fear and complacency" stand in the way of future progress.

"What is required to realize the greatness of this great country," he said, "is the will, and the leadership to give form and effect to the will. Herein lies the challenge to liberals for the decade ahead."

Speeches Heard

The second day of the three-day convention was given to speech-making, adoption of a restatement of ADA principles, and reports from political and foreign policy "commissions." Groups worked on these late into last night.

Gov. Theodore B. McKeldin of Maryland, a Republican, will address a banquet tonight.



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