

Republican Party Control Shifting

Taft Swings to Right As GOP Senate Leader

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON. —Recently the keen ears of the master politicians on Capitol Hill have been tuned to some strange squeaks and rattles developing in the otherwise smoothly running Republican senate machinery. It is confidently predicted on the Democratic side of the aisle that "Chauffeur" Taft who had pretty easy going in the driver's seat up until the latter part of February will have to jump out and tinker under the hood more than once.



Baukhage

From now on, observers say, there are going to be a lot more orders from the back seat.

When the gentleman from Ohio took over after the November elections even the old-timers sat up and took notice of the way he assumed charge. He just shuffled the deck and dealt himself the cards he wanted; chairman of the policy committee; chairman of the labor committee which was going to direct labor legislation on what had been almost the No. 1 issue of the day; chairman of the committee which handles the new economic report. Under the reorganization act, this report must



JOHN W. BRICKER
Dark Horse in Lead

be submitted annually to congress by the President's economic council. With reasonable support from party stalwarts and with these powerful chairmanships in his hands it looked as though the senior senator from the Buckeye state easily could

ride herd on the party vote, delivering it when and where he wished.

But, did you ever try to ride a horse or drive a cow with a large sized bumble-bee leaping from forehead to buttock or from cud to rump? Not so easy, and no bumble-bee ever buzzed or stung like the apis presidential.

Early in January I reminded you of the trouble the presidential bee was expected to cause when I quoted Republican National Committee member Clarence Budington Kelland's remark:

"I don't think you are going to see the matter (Republican candidacy) jell at all until Ohio decides whether it's going to be Taft or Bricker." And it hasn't jelled. Although it was predicted Bricker would bow out, he has refused to bow. Quite the contrary, it is Taft who is bowing—not out, but to the demands of the right wing of the party. (Taft's friends insist Bricker will exit at the right moment.)

But Taft's first obeisance was made toward the end of the Lillenthal hearings. He announced his opposition to the confirmation of the TVA head and did it with such absence of the famous Taft logic that eyebrows went up all over the place. The reason for departing from the common sense path that his superior intellect usually dictates soon became evident. Simultaneously his control of the party in the senate began to slip.

That was seen in the vote on the budget. In that case Taft took what most people considered the sensible, middle-of-the-road course. The four and a half billion cut rather than the six billion urged by the house.

What happened to force Taft's anti-Lillenthal statement? Well, a certain conservative commentator talked with Taft—criticized what he implied was a dangerous lack of conservatism for a prospective standard-bearer of GOP. Then, a well-known columnist came forth with the story that some of the powerful backers of the Republican party enlisted the support of a number of Republican lawmakers in the anti-Lillenthal movement. They began to whisper that perhaps Bricker would represent sounder, safer, saner views for the presidency. Taft heard the whisper and came out emphatically, if not too convincingly, against Lillenthal.

About that time the Roper poll revealed the percentage of preference for various Republican potential candidates, against Truman. And lo, all the rest, Dewey, Vandenberg, Stassen, Bricker, led Taft.

That doesn't mean that Taft will be last in the hearts of the delegates to the Republican national convention in 1948, but wisecracks are saying it does mean that Taft no longer will call the turn on legislation.



VOICES OF PROTEST? . . . Perhaps the idea of living in the United States doesn't appeal to these English war babies, who put up quite a howl on arrival in New York aboard a transport ship.

NEWS REVIEW

Lewis Conviction Upheld; Pact Aimed at Germany

JUDICIARY:

Curb Lewis

The Supreme court decision against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers has been regarded as one of the momentous verdicts in American history, definitely establishing the power and dignity of the courts in civil affairs.



Chief Justice Vinson

By a 7 to 2 ruling, the court cracked down on Lewis' and the UMW's open flaunting of Circuit Judge Goldsborough's order calling for a suspension of the recent soft coal strike to provide additional time for working on an agreement. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice Vinson wrote:

"The interests of orderly government demand respect and compliance be given to orders issued by courts. . . . In our complex society there is a great variety of limited loyalties, but the overriding loyalty of all is to our country and to the institutions under which a particular interest may be pursued. . . ."

To emphasize the gravity of the offense, the court sustained Lewis' fine of \$10,000 and placed the UMW fine at \$700,000.

EUROPE:

Hem in Reich

Even before determination of the future design of Germany, the major powers are proceeding to build a ring of steel around the reich to guard against a revived German state waging a third war of aggression.

The British and French forged the first link with a 50-year alliance,



NO PLACE LIKE HOME! . . . When the Eskimo family of Toby Anungazuk was brought to New York for a sportsmen's show, the father fashioned a makeshift igloo for son, Okoyohok, in a snowdrift. The fur-clad, 18-months-old Okoyohok objected vociferously to the housing project.

pledging the two countries to go to each other's assistance in the event of an attack by Germany or any other country. At the same time, the two allies agreed to integrate their economies to build an industrial base for war and promote the exchange of goods.

France's declaration that she would offer the same terms to other major powers led to speculation whether the treaty would implement the U. S. proposal for a defensive alliance of the Big Four against the threat of future German resurgence. Thus far, Russia has shied away from the U. S. proposition, but has been dicker with Britain for a mutual aid pact.

Holland and Belgium were expected to act favorably upon the French invitation to consummate a similar defensive and economic pact. On the other hand, Poland and Czechoslovakia were expected to look to Moscow for instructions on negotiating such a treaty.

CONGRESS:

Doom OPA

Long the whipping boy for public and politician alike, OPA was headed for the discard by June 30 because of congressional limitation of its funds. The office of temporary controls, established last December as the supervisory agency over remaining wartime regulatory bureaus, also was scheduled to go.

With abolition of OPA, it was reported that rent control would be transferred to the department of commerce and sugar control to the department of agriculture. Because of the scarcity of housing and sugar in the face of tremendous demand, legislators continued to favor their regulation to prevent hardship and skyrocketing prices.

While the Republican minority continued to ride herd in the house and threatened to put OPA out of business before June 30 by refusing a deficiency appropriation and chopping nine million dollars from previous appropriations, the senate provided funds for closing out the agency within the next three months. As a result of these differences, the bill was sent to a senate-house conference for settlement of terms.

MEAT:

Consumer Pressure

During the extensive debates over decontrolling meat, arguments flew thick and fast whether strict government control or the law of supply and demand constituted the best method of keeping retail prices within bounds.

Little was heard of consumer sense, but consumer sense it is that has been keeping meat prices within reasonable levels in recent weeks, packers report. Much as people like pork, they have been passing it up for cheaper cuts of beef, and many butchers have been following the line of least resistance in serving customers.

AROUND THE HOUSE

When paints and varnishes fail to dry you can rest assured the trouble is the result of dirty or oily surface or a surface that has been washed with soap and water, some of the soap having remained on the porous surface of wood.

Keep a mirror hanging in the kitchen. Glance into it before you go to answer the door-bell.

Crumble a dry newspaper, wet, and rub your windows and mirrors with this instead of a cloth.

Paperhangers always do the ceiling before the walls. Ceiling paper should not run across the windows save in cases where this can not possibly be avoided.

When removing a pane of glass, or if fitting a new one, it often becomes necessary to give the glass a few light taps to loosen it or to push it into place. If a rubber crutch tip is placed over the handle of the putty knife there will be little danger of breaking the pane.

Glue pieces of felt under chair legs to prevent scratching painted floors. It's a good way to cut down on noise too.

Soak clothes in cool or lukewarm water rather than cold. Cold water causes the fabric mesh to close and hold the dirt.

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Aim To Crack 'Iron Curtain'

If there is much more evidence of the cracking of the so-called "iron curtain," the impression may get about soon that it is a pretty porous protection of the secrets of the Soviets.

Recently I was walking the corridors of the state department with one of its officials. "How long," I asked him, "do you expect the Kremlin to permit you people and the British, with your American and British propaganda magazines and pamphlets and your broadcasts, to poison Ivan and his Tovarishes, with this western poison?"

"Oh," he replied, "they won't stop us."

"Why not?" I inquired. "They can't," was his answer.

British Broadcasting company has been beaming broadcasts on Russia to Russia in the Russian language for a year or more. BBC reports that the programs have been well received and that the effort is worth while. The state department began its broadcasts last month. Some of its officials believe that it is worth the millions it will cost to continue them. The first program had few listeners; it was criticized. It is being tailored according to listener comment. There is no way for the Russians to know about the programs, since notice of them, except by announcement over BBC, appears in no Russian paper.

How is it the Russians permit it at all? And even if they don't put obstacles in the way, will the Russians listen? Are there enough radio sets with short-wave receivers to make up a worth while potential audience?

These are the questions I asked. I'll try to give some of the answers.

As to the Russian attitude, it seems negative. When the British first talked about broadcasting to Russia, a Russian official is reported to have said: "We have tried to cooperate with you. You have your kind of democracy. You believe in freedom of speech. So we have cooperated with you by sending you broadcasts in English from Russia. We have our kind of democracy. We do not believe in freedom of speech. So we hope you will cooperate with

our kind of democracy by NOT broadcasting to us."

If that wasn't actually said, it ought to have been. It is too good to be untrue.

The British did not cooperate. Neither did 11 other countries, including Ecuador, which, along with the United States, are all now beaming their programs on Russia. I don't know about the others, but the British seem to have quite a following and since the Russian people are more interested in America than in any other country, I see no reason why the state department's effort shouldn't be quite as successful.

What are the chances? In the first place, radio listening has been developed in Russia. People are encouraged to have sets and they are short-wave sets because short-wave is the communication method used by the Russian government. That's because of the great distance.

How many have sets? When Averil Harriman was there he made an estimate of 75,000 sets. A later estimate put the figure at 75,000 to a million.

SEEK DIRECT ACTION

Congress Hears 'Little Business'

WASHINGTON.—As a means of securing action on resolutions approved during their four-day meeting here, delegates to the national conference of American Small Business organizations tramped capitol corridors to present their views directly to their home-state congressmen.

The 80-odd delegates, some of whom represented "just themselves" while others acted as spokesmen for associations with thousands of members, spoke of diverse difficulties.

An Illinois food machinery manufacturer complained of labor troubles. An Oregon lumberman hoped for a better break from the government on timberland leases. "Big company monopolies" drew the ire of a St. Louis tire dealer, and a

New York clothes designer worried about the whole national economy.

Resolutions covering labor legislation, taxes, monopolies, tax-exempt cooperatives, government competition with private business, government economy and federal subsidies were approved by the delegates, representing 280 different lines of industry and more than 600,000 separate small business concerns, before their march up Capitol Hill.

Indicative of the small business man's stand on the labor question, A. L. Hertel, personnel director of the Food Machinery corporation at Hoopeston, Ill., said: "Put the unions on an equal basis with management. I don't want to see the unions smashed, but I'd like to see them under local control, not dictated to

by the big shots. If I could thresh out troubles with the 700 workers at our plant, we could always figure out a solution satisfactory to the men and to us."

In backing up his demand for an immediate 15 per cent increase in rents and an end to all controls by January 1, 1948, George W. Proffitt of Baltimore, executive secretary of National Apartment Owners association, broached the theory that housing is like any other commodity in that "when it's cheap, people buy more than they really need." "If nylon," he continued, "were selling for 50 cents a pair, every woman in the country would have a dozen pairs. It's the same with housing. I know a woman in Baltimore living all by herself in an apartment with four bedrooms."