

Morse's Requested Disqualification of Eastland Asked Three Times in History

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — When Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) urged Senate last week to disqualify Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.) from the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, he was recommending a reprimand which the Senate has meted out on only three occasions in its history.

Eastland came in line for the committee chairmanship through death of Sen. Harley Kilgore (D-W.Va.), the only Democrat who outranked Eastland in point of service on the committee. When the formal order of Eastland's election as chairman came before the Senate, Morse and Sen. Herbert Lehman (D-N.Y.) protested on grounds that Eastland's avowed defiance of the Supreme Court's anti-segregation ruling disqualified him to head the Judiciary Committee.

Custom and Tradition
"The seniority practice of the Senate is a custom and a tradition and not a rule," Morse pointed out in trying to encourage others to vote against Eastland. He said history showed there are three precedents in which seniority was cast aside, one of them involving a former senator from Oregon.

Morse argued that Eastland had disqualified himself by his own words when he said the Supreme Court's integration decision "will justly cause (Morse) evasion and violation of law and contempt for law."

"The senator's use of the language 'It will justly cause' disturbs me very much," said Morse. "It would seem to imply an encouragement on his part to law evasion and violation."

Additional Quotes
From a campaign speech by Eastland in Mississippi last year Morse drew additional quotes on which to base his contentions about the Dixiecrat senator's qualifications.

Eastland told his audience that late in 1949 through seniority he became chairman of the civil rights subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee.

"Yes, Eastland of Mississippi became the boss of the committee that had all the civil rights bills," Eastland declared. "And ever since then the CIO and these organizations have been yapping and yapping that I was afraid and high hatted with them, and so I was; and they said that I broke the law, and so I did. You know the law says the committee has got to meet once a week; and there I was, chairman of the subcommittee, and there were northerners up there, Yankees, who didn't know anything about the question, who were lined up against us. Do you know what happened? Why, for the three years I was chairman, that committee didn't hold a meeting."

No Confidence
Such a speech, said Morse, did "not instill in me any confidence that he would serve impartially as chairman of the Judiciary Committee."

The three precedents for bypassing the senior committee

member to elect a chairman, Morse told the Senate, were:

1. In 1871 when Sen. Charles Sumner of Mass. was replaced as chairman of Foreign Relations by Sen. Simon Cameron. On this occasion, lengthy debate on the issue was climaxed by Sumner withdrawing his name. The Senate then elected Cameron 33 to 9.
2. In 1923 when Sen. Albert B. Cummins of Iowa was serving as chairman of the Interstate

Commerce Committee, opposition developed to him. The result was a dragged out floor fight in which none of three candidates for the chairmanship could muster a majority vote of the Senate to be elected for over a year. Finally Sen. Smith of South Carolina won out over Cummins and Sen. Robert M. La Follette Sr.

Oregon's Stanfield Elected
3. In 1924 the chairmanship of the Public Lands Committee

opened up. The top ranking senator, Smoot of Utah, was already chairman of the Finance Committee, so the second ranking senator, Ladd of North Dakota, was elected chairman. Next year opposition to Ladd developed and Sen. Stanfield of Oregon won out in a balloting with Ladd.

The Senate was unwilling to ballot on Eastland. He was elected by voice vote.



THE FLOODS ARE COMING—Firemen at Nassau, N. Y., use a rowboat to evacuate the James Van Slyke family forced from their home by high water. James Van Slyke holds his four-year-old son as he steps into the boat.

Kefauver Believes Ground Gained In New Hampshire and Minnesota

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Estes Kefauver said today he thinks he is gaining ground in both New Hampshire and Minnesota, where he faces his first two presidential primary contests against Adlai E. Stevenson.

Back in Washington for voting on the farm bill, Kefauver told a reporter he expects to get "a majority or a little better than a majority" of the national convention delegates elected in the Democratic primary in New Hampshire next Tuesday.

No Forecast on Minnesota
He would make no forecast about Minnesota, where he is backing the state organization headed by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and Gov. Orville L. Freeman. They are backing Stevenson.

"I think I'm gaining ground in Minnesota," Kefauver said. "If I could just spend more time there."

New Hampshire will have eight delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention. It will not provide a head-on clash between Stevenson and Kefauver because Stevenson did

not formally enter the primary. However, a slate of pro-Stevenson delegate candidates entered against a slate pledged to Kefauver.

Underdog Role
Minnesota, which holds its primary a week after New Hampshire, will have 30 delegate votes at the national convention. Both Kefauver and Stevenson consented to the entry of full delegate slates, but the Tennessee senator staked out a

claim to an underdog role from the outset. Already entered or entering in six state presidential primaries, Kefauver said he was still considering half a dozen others on which no decision had been made. One of these was Oregon, where the deadline for entering was today.

Besides his two primary contests this month, he will be matched against Stevenson in Florida May 29 and California June 5.

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