

Unwritten 'Personally Obnoxious' Rule in Senate Doesn't Always Bring About Defeat

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—That old one about the U.S. Senate being the world's most exclusive club is mostly hokum, there being usually in the Senate one or more individuals who couldn't buy their way into the Loyal Order of Musk-rats. The Senate does have its traditions, however. One of them is the unwritten "personally obnoxious" rule. Obnoxious is a rough word meaning, variously, evil, offensive, objectionable, odious, hateful. When a senator says an individual nominated for high office by the President is personally obnoxious to him, that senator has said a mouthful.

So, six senators jointly sent a letter to their 90 colleagues saying that the nomination of Solicitor General Simon E. Sobeloff to be a federal judge on the fourth circuit bench "is obnoxious to our states and to us." The senators, all Democrats, were Scott and Ervin, N.C.; Wofford

and Johnston, S.C.; Byrd and Robertson, Va.
Accused of Prejudice
The Fourth Circuit comprises those three states with Maryland and West Virginia. The six senators declared Sobeloff to be aggressively prejudiced against the Southern point of view on race relations, especially segregation in the public schools. They said he would not be fair to the white citizens under his jurisdiction in their three states. But in the Sobeloff case the "personally obnoxious" rule did not apply and the Senate confirmed his nomination.

In the unwritten fine print of that rule it says that the objecting senator and the nominee to whom he applies the deadly objection must hail from the same state. That is to protect a senator against a President who might deliberately name a powerful political or personal enemy to office in a Senator's backyard.

Strong Maryland Support
Sobeloff had three of five states against him. But he's a Maryland man, and the Maryland senators were for him strong. He stood well enough in West Virginia, too. If either Maryland senator could have been induced to declare Sobeloff personally obnoxious to him, the nomination doubtless would have been withdrawn.

Even though the six objectors did not prevail, they were given Sobeloff a bad start in his career on the bench. His judgments will be under unusual scrutiny among the people with whom he must live and work much of the time. He is likely to encounter a suspicious, even hostile reception, in the Southern tier of the Fourth Circuit.

The last time a "personally obnoxious" nominee was defeated for confirmation was Aug. 2, 1935. Sen. W. Kerr Scott (D-N.C.)

made the objection against Margaret E. Smith, named to be postmaster at Montreat, N.C. She lost on a voice vote.

Other 'Obnoxious Nominees'
Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) used the unwritten rule to prevent confirmation of President Truman's nomination of Joseph J. Drucker and Cornelius J. Harrington to be U.S. district judges for northern Illinois. They were rejected Oct. 9, 1951.

Sen. Harry F. Byrd and the late Sen. Carter Glass, both Virginia Democrats, said President Roosevelt's 1939 nomination of Floyd H. Roberts to the federal bench was "personally and offensively obnoxious." FDR was powerful but his man lost.

There are exceptions, however. Sen. W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel (D-Tex.) declared a judicial nominee obnoxious in 1947, but could not stop him. Veteran Sen. Tom Connally (D-Tax.) supported the nomination and it went through. The late Sen. Theodore (The Man) Bilbo (D-Miss.) tried to block another such nomination with the unwritten rule. But the late Sen. Pat Harrison (D-Miss.) voted the other way and the nominee was confirmed.

It depends mostly on who is obnoxious to whom.

Hundreds Vaccinated In Chicago Epidemic
Chicago—(U.P.)—Hundreds of mothers today lined up with their children at emergency inoculation centers here as the number of cases in the city's early outbreak of polio continued to climb.

Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, president of the Chicago Board of Health, said 18 new cases during a 48-hour period pushed the city's total for the year to 169. The death of a two-year-old boy increased one year's death toll to four, he said.

This contrasted sharply with last year when 34 cases and two deaths were reported during the same period. Sixteen of the 169 victims this year had received Salk polio vaccine.

Bunden reported about 66 per cent of the polio patients were children five years old and younger. He called this the "least inoculated" age group.

Detours To Mitchell Nearing Completion
Salem—Detours to accommodate truck traffic into the flood-damaged town of Mitchell should be completed by tomorrow night, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock said today.

Detours around bridge washouts to handle light traffic were completed Sunday morning and work on detours for heavier traffic was started immediately.

Highway engineers and crews have worked 24 hours a day in shifts to restore Highway 26 to normal traffic after Friday night's flash flood cut it in several spots. Baldock said "every effort is being made to restore the highway to full usage at the earliest possible moment."

'Nothing New' on Weinberger Kidnaping
Westbury, N. Y.—(U.P.)—A Nassau County police spokesman reported "nothing new" today in the Peter Weinberger kidnap case nearly two weeks after the month-old infant was snatched from his buggy at his parent's home here.

The FBI, which entered the case last Wednesday, continued silent concerning its investigation of the Fourth of July kidnaping but informed sources said there had been no new leads.

New Law Provides Education Benefits For Vet Survivors

A new law, recently signed by the president, makes educational benefits available to more than 150,000 persons of deceased war veterans, S. T. Brannock, officer in charge of the Medford VA office, said today.

Oregon will have about 1,400 boys and girls whose fathers lost their lives as a result of World War I, World War II and the Korean conflict who may be eligible, Brannock said.

Persons between ages 18 and 23 are eligible, and education may be taken in colleges and universities, as well as below-college-level schools. Regular high school training is not included, nor are on-the-job training, on-the-farm training, and correspondence courses.

The new law also provides for special restorative training for children with physical or mental disabilities which would hinder pursuit of a regular program of education.

Government allowance of \$110 is paid to students if attending full time; \$80 for three-quarter time; and \$50 for half-time training. The allowance for special restorative training is \$110 monthly, which may be increased if not sufficient to meet the cost of fees and tuition, Brannock said.

Monthly payments for school will begin Oct. 1, 1956. Exact mechanics of making application have not been set up yet, Brannock said.

The youth's parent or guardian will file application with his nearest VA office. The person will have educational or vocational counseling arrangements for which must be made through the VA, to help determine a suitable objective. The VA also will help develop a program of education and an estimate of how much the program will cost.

Students will be allowed up to 36 months of training.

Democrats Confident In Liberalization of Security Benefits

Washington—(U.P.)—Democrats in the Senate were confident today of racking up more victories in their drive to liberalize social security benefits.

The Senate met two hours early to continue debate which began last night on the controversial social security bill. Democratic leader Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.) said he hopes to complete action by tonight or Wednesday.

Approval Predicted
Democratic sources predicted almost sure approval of a compromise amendment by Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.) allowing wives of retired workers and working women to start collecting retirement benefits at 62 instead of 65 years. The benefits would be somewhat lower than if they waited until 65 to collect.

They also anticipated victory, but by a close margin, for another compromise by Sen. Walter F. George (D-Ga.) lowering the retirement age to 50 for totally disabled workers. George's amendment increases social security payroll taxes to finance the disability benefits.

Both parts of the compromise plan are opposed by the Eisenhower administration. The Senate handed the administration a setback last night by approving another amendment balking public assistance payments to 3,000,000 needy aged, blind and disabled persons by at least \$5 a month.

Amendment Approved
The amendment, by Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) was approved by a 62 to 21 vote, with 21 Republicans to oppose it.

The Long amendment increases federal contributions to the federal-state public assistance program by about \$208,000,000 a year. It requires states to "pass along" the increase to the needy aged, blind and disabled persons on public assistance rolls.

Through a change in the federal-state matching formula, the

increase would amount to \$5 in most cases, but could run as high as \$7.50 a month.

Louis B. Mayer in Hospital for Treatment
Hollywood—(U.P.)—Film producer Louis B. Mayer, former head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios, is under treatment at Good Samaritan hospital for a "slight case of pneumonia," it was disclosed today.

Mayer, who entered the hospital Sunday, was reported in "fair" condition.

SPORTS

Hillman Leads Coast Hill Men With .733 Mark

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Dave Hillman (11-4) of Los Angeles paced the Pacific Coast league hurlers today with a winning percentage of .733 while Floyd Boyer (6-5) of Sacramento had fashioned a 2-41 earned run mark which stamped him as the league's most effective pitcher.

Elmer Singleton (13-5) of Seattle continued to lead with the most triumphs while Eddie Erutt (6-15) of San Diego had suffered the most defeats.

Dick Drott (10-6) of the first place Los Angeles Angels stayed ahead for the most strikeouts having fanned 135 batters. Pete Mesa (5-9) of San Diego had given up 92 bases on balls to lead in passes and Bill Werle (10-9) Portland showed ahead of Singleton for workhorse honors with a league-leading total of 159 innings pitched.

Grants Pass Squeaks Win

Grants Pass cubs slipped home with a run in the extra inning to beat Medford 3 to 2 in a junior baseball game played here yesterday.

The teams were tied 2-all at the end of regulation seven innings. Grants Pass pitcher Hayes singled in his team's half of the eighth to bring in Patterson, third baseman, with the winning tally.

Batteries for Grants Pass were Benner, Hayes who relieved in the fifth inning, and Dierks and Martell who came in to catch in the fourth. For Medford, Pond went the distance with Turner catching.

Both teams committed three errors. Grants Pass was credited with seven hits, Medford with four.

Dixon Annexes Jockey Mantle

Portland—Glen Dixon won seven races in the final week of the season at Portland Meadows to win jockey honors for the 1956 season. The Caldwell, Id., lad rode 326 mounts for the season with 49 wins, 46 seconds, and 52 thirds for a total of 146 times in the money.

A. J. Brandenburg took the season's trainer honors despite a fast finish by George Dimick. Brandenburg finished the season with 18 wins, 14 seconds, and 12 thirds. Dimick had 13 wins, 16 seconds, and seven thirds.

Total handle for the 1956 horse racing season at the Meadows set a new record for the track. A total of \$8,664,606 went through the pari-mutuel method, an average of \$133,292 per day for the season.

Attendance hit 196,418 despite a threat of flood during part of the season. This was an average of 3,328 persons per session.

ARCARO RIDES
New York—(U.P.)—Jockey Eddie Arcaro rode four winners on the eight-race program at Jamaica race track Monday, including Blue Bamer \$11.90 in the \$6,000 Henry Hudson Handicap. His other winners were Cooks Tour \$8.60, Eternal Flame \$3.50, and Ho-Chi-Minh \$12.20.

CENTER SIGNED
New York—(U.P.)—Ray Wietecha, offensive center and linebacker, has signed for his fourth season with the New York Giants of the National Football League. Wietecha has not missed a single minute since becoming the Giant's regular center in 1954.

Veterans Get Tracts On Hyatt Lake Shore

Portland—(U.P.)—Names of 15 veterans were drawn yesterday for recreational tracts on the northeast shore of Hyatt lake in southern Oregon at the bureau of land management's Oregon land office here.

Mrs. Maude Turnbow, Eugene, a visitor at the office at the time, was called on to draw the names and tract cards of the successful filers.

The lucky 15 included: Howard R. Lockwood, Talent; Fred R. Sullivan, Selma; Leon N. Boese, Medford; Charles F. Ellison, Medford; Ben Edward Rackley, Grants Pass; Charles H. Delsmen, Ashland; Chester C. Garden, Portland; Edward M. McAlbago, Grants Pass; Phillip H. Stansbury, Ashland; Lawrence C. Adams, Grants Pass; Gordon E. Williams, Central Point; Jacob A. Toews, Medford; Mrs. Jack S. Stovall, Grants Pass; Thomas E. Winn, Grants Pass; and Dale Pierson, Ashland.

Pickets Picket Pickets At Eureka Restaurants
Eureka, Calif.—(U.P.)—Eureka restaurants that had pickets picketing their pickets said today that business has never been better.

The double picket line started last week end when the North Coast Restaurant and Tavern Owners association set up management picket lines in front of restaurants that had signed with striking cooks, waiters and bartenders.

These pickets carried signs calling the new contracts a "sweetheart agreement," because they granted the strikers a 10 per cent wage increase, but carried a clause saying that if the unions eventually settle for less, they will revise their contract downward.

The unions involved rushed out pickets to picket the management pickets.

The second picket line carries signs reading: "Fair to Organized Labor."

Halibut Catch Predicted High

Washington—(U.P.)—The U. S. Fish and Wildlife service predicted yesterday that commercial fishermen can expect a "banner catch" of halibut and a good seasonal shrimp catch in the July-August-September quarter.

The service, in its commercial fisheries outlook report, said the quarter would mark the opening of the oyster season and the marketing of increased supplies of canned tuna, Alaska salmon and Main sardines.

News About Servicemen

COMPLETE TRAINING
Thomas E. Malot, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Malot, 3009 Table Rock rd., Medford, and Ronald W. Richey, son of E. W. Richey, route 2, box 195-A, Central Point, completed recruit training July 6 at the Marine corps recruit depot, San Diego, Calif. The 10-week course includes instruction in all basic military subjects and the firing of all basic infantry weapons.

FINISHES TRAINING
Army Pvt. Bernard W. Mueller, 24, whose wife, Carolyn, lives at 1445 King's hwy., Medford, was recently graduated from the military police training center at Fort Gordon, Ga. He entered the Army last February.

ABOARD DESTROYER
Robert P. Graham, chief quartermaster, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Graham, 175 Jeanette st., Medford, is serving aboard the destroyer USS Buck, which is now on its seventh tour of duty in the Far East. During the tour, visits are scheduled for Midway, Hong Kong, the Philippines and several ports in Japan.

RECEIVES TROPHY
Sgt. I/C William E. Godden, son of Mrs. E. L. Godden, 145 West Hershey st., Ashland, recently received the Kakata Invitational Open golf trophy in Japan. Sergeant Godden won the open as a member of the Kamp Kure team. A construction foreman with the 809th Army unit's station complement, the sergeant entered the Army in April, 1946.

Births
JOHNSON—To Mr. and Mrs. Ralph, 854 Stewart ave., July 16, 1956, a girl, 6¼ pounds, at Rogue Valley (Community) hospital.

McCOY—To Mr. and Mrs. James, 1018 West 10th st., July 16, 1956, a girl, 7½ pounds, at Rogue Valley (Community) hospital.

ROBERTSON—To Mr. and Mrs. Dean, 20 Mistletoe st., July 16, 1956, a boy, 6¼ pounds, at Rogue Valley (Community) hospital.

SPENCE—To Mr. and Mrs. Perry, Ashland, July 17, 1956, a boy, 7½ pounds, at Sacred Heart hospital.

ROZELL—To Mr. and Mrs. Elton, route 2, box 220, Medford, July 17, 1956, a boy, 8½ pounds, at Sacred Heart hospital.

KENTON—To Mr. and Mrs. Elwood, route 1, box 410M, Medford, July 16, 1956, a boy, 7½ lbs., at Osteopathic hospital.

BUCHER—To Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J., 1003 Murray st., July 16, 1956, a boy, 8½ lbs., at Osteopathic hospital.

LOZDEN—To Mr. and Mrs. Paul A., Shady Cove, July 16, 1956, a boy, 8¼ lbs., at Osteopathic hospital.

TWO VESSELS COLLIDE
Vlissingen, Holland—(U.P.)—The Costa Rican steamer Maeda and the Norwegian tanker Salsaa collided in a heavy fog off the shore of Zealand Monday night. The Maeda sank almost immediately, but her crew was rescued by the Salsaa before Dutch and Belgian tugs arrived to offer assistance.

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