

Correspondent's Book Succeeds In Portraying Power of Senate

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Citadel: The Story of the U.S. Senate

By William S. White
(Harper & Bros.)
Most books devoted to the life and mechanics of Congress can be divided roughly into two categories — those that purport to give the inside dope on which congressmen are in what lobbyist's pocket and which senators spend more time at cocktail parties than at committee hearings; and those books which essentially are texts on the American political system, suitable chiefly for students of the subject.

Citadel, whose author is chief congressional correspondent of the New York Times, is neither of these types. It is a grandly sweeping story which succeeds in portraying the power of the Senate as an institution in American life today probably better than it has ever been presented before.

The Senate, as White analyzes it, is not just the upper chamber of the bicameral legislative branch of the government. It has assumed through constitutional powers and certain perquisites the authority of a separate branch, in some aspects dominating even the other two principal branches, the presidency and the courts, through its power to impeach, to reject presidential appointments and to ratify treaties.

Such an analysis helps greatly to explain the independence of Senate leaders from domination by their party's president—such as the outspoken behavior today of Senator Knowland, the Republican leader in the Senate who so often differs with the President on foreign policy. Knowland, like many before him, is not the captain of the president's team in the Senate; he is the chosen leader of the Republican members of the Senate, who are a group unto themselves.

View Adds Value
Mr. White explains such current topics as why senators, like Kefauver, who live to become president, have such a tough time making it; and the atmosphere of the inner club, whose members are the typical and most powerful senators. And through much of the book, he reveals himself to be having quite a love affair with the institution he is describing. Lest the reader think this is coloring his judgment, let it be recorded that this, in the end, gives his book its impact and greatest value.

For while he believes the Senate to be the "one touch of authentic genius in the American political system" which "very often reflects the best instincts, and very infrequently the worst instincts with which the Anglo-American race (and all its valued assimilated members now merged

together in the agreeably quarrelsome unity that enriches us all) has endowed the world," he also is fearful the Senate is cracking the very foundation upon which it stands. This is happening through its abuse of its power to investigate, and its abuse of the immunity from libel or slander which the constitution affords its members.

Acknowledging that witnesses have repeatedly abused the sanctity of the fifth amendment, White argues that the Senate has been guilty of the most "persistent extra-constitutional usurpations of power" through its abuse of the fifth amendment, which, as he points out, declares: "No person shall be held to answer for a capital or other-

wise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury."

The Kefauver "crime hearings" of 1951 illustrate White's point that this type of investigation is a parody of good grand jury procedure and represents the Senate intervening where it has no business going—into local places about local crime.

"The Senate simply has no right to indict men outside its rank or at most outside the government. It has every right to indict issues, policies, systems, executive departments," he argues. He concludes by indicting liberals and conservatives for failing to lift their voices in protest against this abuse. He adds: "Worst of all is the shame of

the Senate itself, as a guardian of the great constitutional traditions, in condoning what it knows is not right."
This is a perceptive and provocative book, the more so now that the Senate has begun an investigation of the tieups between racketeers and labor officials.

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. L. M.—My sister and her children belong together.

Mrs. M. D.—I want to do what's right.

Loretta D.—We all want to be independent.

Mrs. L. M.—I am very much upset about my sister, who is a widow in her 60s. Mathilda has three very ungrateful grown children—two girls and a boy. They are unmarried, yet they have left her all alone.

The youngest, my nephew, was in the service when his father died. He came home, stayed a few weeks, and then went to another city to college—although he could have gone to a college near home. Then one of his sisters took a job over-

seas and plans to stay two years. Now the other girl, Loretta, says she wants to have her own apartment with a friend.

My sister talks blithely about going to live in a hotel. She says she wants to take courses and be a "free woman." She also has a full-time job. I tell her all this is nonsense. Her business is to stay home and keep house for her children, and as long as they are unmarried, their place is with her.

Mrs. M. D.—I am really very confused. I want to do what is right, but my children are adults and I feel they have a right to do as they please. I don't want to hold them back.

The fact is that I like the feeling of having no responsibility about a home. I would enjoy living in a hotel or boarding out. My children write to me regularly and I feel I can count on them if I need them.

Loretta D.—My mother has listened to my aunt all her life and hardly knows her own mind any more. My aunt has made my mother feel both guilty about "leaving" us and rejected by us.

The fact is that we all like to lead independent lives. Mother has never been a homebody and the truth is I've kept house for her and I'm a little tired of it. We love our mother, but feel we are all better off doing different things.

The Council: Mrs. L. M. evidently feels it is her personal responsibility to uphold the order of the universe. She has not yet discovered that the order of the universe does not determine any set patterns for human behavior.

From all accounts, nobody in this adult family is complaining. The mother does not feel deserted by her children and the grown children do not feel deserted by their mother. This mother says she would enjoy freedom from responsibility. She is not morally bound to "keep house for her children" when they are grown and neither she nor they desire such a setup. Neither are the children morally bound to stay with their mother—as long as she is as well able to take care of herself as she appears to be. Only Mrs. L. M.'s rigid idea of what ought to be is upsetting this family. This mother evidently has no reason to feel either guilty or rejected. She should recognize that she has evolved a happy, if somewhat unconventional relationship with her children and should reject her sister's ill-founded moralizing.

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Man Reports Girl Was Attacked Friday

Portland—(U.P.)—Vearl Lee Collins, 23, Mulino, told Portland police Saturday that he was robbed Friday night and his girl friend criminally attacked by a masked man who hid in the back seat of his car.

Collins, an employee at the Bremerton, Wash., navy yard, said he was visiting the girl at the home of an older sister in North Portland.

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