

Neuberger Views Civil Rights Debate as Crisis for Democrats

BY A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent



Washington—The civil rights debate now underway in the Senate spotlights the "greatest crisis" to confront the Democratic party in modern times, in the view of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.).

"If the crisis is not successfully weathered, result could be banishment for the Democrats for many decades from the executive branch of government," declared Neuberger. "Conversely, mastery of the crisis by the Democrats might mean a return to the political glories of the New Deal, for the Republicans are likewise not without their grave and serious problems."

The Oregon senator's thesis, offered in an article in the New York Times magazine this week, is basically that the Democratic

party has been able to hang onto its slim majorities in Congress only because of the solid Democratic southern 11 states—and yet these southern members of Congress, because of their rigid stand against civil rights legislation, are "a liability nationally."

Virtually Certain To Win

That is, as long as the Democratic party, through its southern wing, blocks civil rights legislation, while the Republicans are virtually certain to capture the national sentiment in favor of civil rights and thereby win national elections for the presidency.

Neuberger proposes a bargain which the two wings of the Democratic party must make in order to escape the political consequences of this dilemma—the southern Democrats must give up using the filibuster and permit the Senate to vote its will on civil rights bills; the northern Democrats must agree to having Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas as majority leader.

Neuberger tacitly admits this might not sound like a bargain to the South, which already has the advantage of Johnson installed as majority leader. So he proposes that the northern contingent might make the supreme sacrifice and turn the Senate

over to the Republicans unless the southerners agreed to call off their filibuster. The effect of this would be to oust the many southern senators from chairmanships of the standing committees, the most important and powerful posts in Congress, and give the chairmanships to Republican senators.

Once a bargain has been struck, the Democrats "must dramatize for the country that there never would have been substantial economic gains either for Negroes or for whites if Republican policies on social welfare had dominated the nation during the past quarter of a century," said Neuberger.

"One of the main reasons the Democratic party is in trouble nationally is a widely held belief that, under its current leadership, it is losing out on liberal issues to the Eisenhower Republicans," observes the senator. He blames this idea on the Democrats doing "an ineffective job in countering propaganda about so-called modern Republicanism."

Neuberger said that in his three years in office he has been surprised with two conditions more than anything: First, the "grimness of the feeling against granting equality to the Negro on the part of many southern Democrats" and, second, "the hostility of most Republican

senators—and this includes even some of the so-called modern Republicans—toward the mildest kind of social and economic reform."

Unless the Democrats can heal the breach that lies at the heart of the current civil rights fight in the Senate, it is threatened with a break into separate factions "which would only surrender the government of the United States to the Republicans, virtually by default, for far into the future."

"Failure to accomplish this could be fatal to the party and, more important, lastingly detrimental to the nation," the senator concluded.

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The service-connected death of a World War II or Korean conflict veteran may entitle his widow to a GI loan, even if the veteran had obtained a GI loan before he died, according to S. T. Brannock, officer in charge of the Veterans Administration office, Sixth st. and Riverside ave., Medford.

However, Brannock warned, if the widow herself is an eligible veteran, she accrues no additional GI loan rights because of her husband's death.

Widow's of World War II or Korea veterans whose death was service-connected, also may obtain direct loans from VA in certain areas eligible for direct loans.

Direct loans may be made for the purchase of a home or farm house, or farm land. The law does not authorize direct business loans, Brannock stated.

Three New Leaflets

Out on Disease Control

Salem—Publication of three new educational materials on communicable disease control was announced recently by the state board of health.

The leaflets, entitled Measles, Whooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever, will be distributed without charge through local health departments, private physicians, schools, and local civic and health organizations.

ARGENTINE PRELATE DIES

Montevideo, Uruguay—Mr. Msgr. Gustavo Franchesi, 76, internationally-known Argentinian prelate and a founder of the Argentinian Academy of Letters, died Thursday after a heart attack.

Week's Sewing Buy

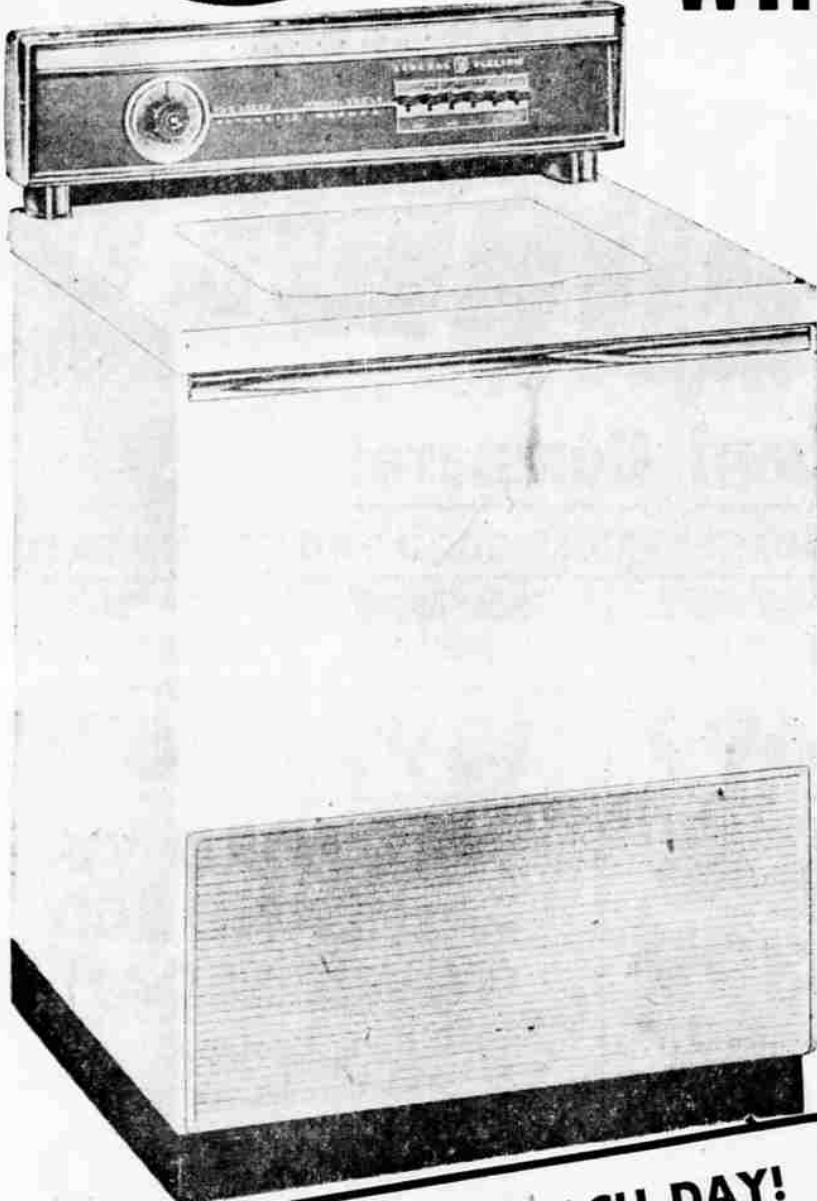


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