

### Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

There are plenty of sea gulls in the United States today, but there probably would not be any if the millinery trade and egg hunters had been left to their own devices. The fact of the matter is that back in the 1880's, sea gull plumage was as much in demand for women's hats as the egret's. As for the eggs, though some people made a living by fattening young sea gulls for the poultry market,



the eggers made money faster by raiding the rookeries in the nesting season. Boiled, coddled or fried, they were a

popular item in seaport restaurants from Boston to San Francisco.

Too popular, because finally the people were confronted with a problem unique in ornithological history—which would go first, the gull or the egg.

Gradually the question tightened its grip on the public imagination. In 1885, New Jersey passed the first strong law against gull killing. Ten years later, California forbade the sale of gull wings or feathers for millinery purposes. During the next two decades 38 other states passed similar measures.

But, as the history of conservation shows, passage of laws is one thing and enforcement another. In too many cases the law has served only as a scapegoat for the public conscience. Not so with the gull. Why? Part of the answer undoubtedly is an early recognition of the gull as a scavenger. In that respect the herring gull, commonest of our sea gulls, is little short of a flying garbage disposal unit. Though an able and resourceful hunter, he would much rather find his food the easy way. Since almost any organic matter will do, the harbors of America present him with a steadily increasing food supply. His comeback has been a strong one—so much that by even the late 20's, conservation officials found they had to begin destroying a percentage of the eggs. There was no protest at the waste, the public having largely forgotten their taste.

### Nixon Says Senate Can Adopt Rules

Washington—(UPI)—Vice President Richard M. Nixon held for the second time in two years Wednesday that the Senate can adopt new rules by majority vote at the opening of any new Congress. The vice president's "advisory opinion" — not a binding ruling — came only a half-hour after the Senate opened its new session with a bitter fight brewing over attempts to change the rules and make filibusters easier to curb.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Sorry, I simply cannot answer your many friendly letters individually, but I will be glad to answer letters of general interest through the column. Please address your letters to: It That So! in care of the Mail Tribune, box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

It came shortly after Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas announced that the Senate would take no action on the rules fight today. As the Senate's presiding officer, Nixon, held in his advisory opinion that the Senate at the time was operating under its old rules, but that it has the "constitutional right at the beginning of each new Congress" to decide by majority vote what rules it wants to adopt.



**TO THE VICTOR**—Outgoing Gov. Goodwin Knight (left) presents the keys of the Governor's Mansion to his successor, Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, prior to Brown's being sworn in as new governor of California at Assembly ceremonies in Sacramento. Brown is the first Democrat to be governor of the state in 16 years.

The first man-made snow storm in the United States was made by air, dropping dry ice on clouds over Mount Greylock, Mass., in 1946.

Thomas G. Clemson, founder of Clemson College, was United States charge d'affaires in Belgium from 1844 to 1852.

### Hatfield Suggests Neuberger Address

Salem—(UPI)—Gov.-elect Mark Hatfield suggested Wednesday that the state legislature might like to invite Sen. Richard Neuberger to address a joint session to set forth views on national and international problems facing the current congressional session.

Hatfield said he made his suggestion after learning that Neuberger would remain in Portland for treatment for another three weeks.

"I cannot recall the Oregon legislature having heard an address in joint session from one of our U.S. senators," Hatfield said.

A new breed of cattle developed in Australia is called the Droughtmaster and is resistant to both heat and cattle tick. It is a cross between the Brahman and a red English beef breed.

### Prices of Whiskey Scheduled to Rise

Portland—(UPI)—Prices have gone up 10 to 15 cents a fifth on six brands of bourbon whiskey carried in Oregon state-controlled liquor stores.

The OLCC said that similar increases are expected on about three more brands Feb. 1. Reason for the price increase is a price hike by distilleries.

Less than one-third of all the single men in this country between the ages of 65 and 69 still work. For married men, the proportion is more than half.

Capital punishment was abolished in Rhode Island on Feb. 11, 1852, except that a person who commits murder while serving a life sentence can be hanged.



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