

Anticipated Success Of Civil Rights Act Credited to West

By A. ROBERT SMITH
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Washington Correspondent

Washington - The widely anticipated ultimate success of the current drive for a strong civil rights bill - against the most strenuous filibuster in Senate history - is a direct result of the advancing political power of the New West.

The admission of Alaska and Hawaii, long opposed by the Southern bloc, added visibility to the strength of the Western bloc. But the more significant development has been the shift of power within the Democratic party ranks from the Old South to the New West.

A successful civil rights drive in the Senate can only be conducted if the leaders of both parties are in general agreement in its behalf, as they are today. Because of the unlimited debate rule, and the corollary requirement of a two-thirds vote to shut off debate and bring the issue to a vote, it has always been impossible for the majority party alone - whether it be Republican or Democratic - to force a civil rights vote.

Anchor in South

Before the recent rise of the New West, the Democratic party in the Senate was anchored in the Old South. If the chosen leader of the Democratic senators did not actually come from a southern state, he was ever conscious

of his freedom of action in this sensitive area was severely limited by the power of the southern patriarchy led by Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia.

During the Truman administration, for example, the Democratic leader was from Illinois - but all efforts of the White House to press a civil rights slate were frustrated in the Senate. The Old South successfully exerted its will.

Today's change is all the more evident because the present Democratic leader is from a state historically regarded as southern, Texas. But Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson has been trying noticeably to escape that identification by cozying up to the Far West. After the 1958 elections brought a host of new Democrats to the Senate from the western states, Johnson got his western colleagues to include Texas and Oklahoma in the roster of western states for formation of a new bloc. The westerners didn't begrudge Johnson a pair of their spurs, hoping he would use them to dig into the hides of those more conservative Southern Democrats who retain great power as chairmen of committees.

Personal Driving Factor

Johnson's presidential aspirations, to be sure, are regarded as a personal driving factor in all of this. But that ambition aside, the Texan's compulsive desire to lead his party in Congress would shrewdly direct him away from the waning power of the Old South.

The combination of Democratic victories in the western states, and the addition of Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and Oklahoma to this bloc, give the New West domination over the party in the Senate. There are now 24 Democratic senators from the New West, 23 from all the North East, Central and Border states, and 18 from the Old South.

The Republicans now, for their part, are behaving more like a party which can claim its rightful Lincoln heritage as civil rights champions. Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-Ill.) and his band of liberals and moderates who are loyal to whatever the White House and Justice Department propose are in no mood for easy bargains with the South.

Informal Entente Gone

Gone is the day when Bob Taft and Dick Russell had an informal working entente, as noted by Jack Bell, the Associated Press political writer, in his authoritative new book, "The Splendid Misery." Russell kept the Southern conservatives in Taft's corner to help pass Taft-Hartley labor legislation and block Fair Deal social measures, and Taft kept the conservative Republicans from joining any civil rights crusades against the wishes of the Old South.

So the enhanced strength of the Democrats from the West has not only forced the Democratic party leader to his new liberalism. It has compelled the Republicans to make genuine exertions for civil rights legislation in order to bid for popular favor in the large cities of the East, which the GOP must swing if it is to hold the White House in 1960's presidential election and recoup its losses in Congress.



AID DISCUSSED - Delegates of nine nations and the European Economic Community met in Washington, D.C., to discuss aid to the less developed nations of the world. Posing prior to start of the meeting are, left to right, Robert Lemaignin, European Commissioner of European Economic Commission; S. W. Plumtree, Canadian assistant deputy minister of finance; Italian Ambassador Egidio

Ortono; Dr. Ernst Harkort, West German foreign office; Andre van Campenhout, Belgium; French Ambassador Herve Alphand; Sir Dennis Rickett, Great Britain; C. Douglas Dillon, U. S. Undersecretary of State, temporary chairman; Albano Fernandes Nogueira, Portugal; Shigenobu Shima, Japan, and Anthony Geber, executive secretary of the meeting. (UPI Telephoto)



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Lowly Ray Was Stepped On by Nature

It was only natural that in the push and crush of early creation some creatures were sure to be stepped on, depressed or downtrodden, and there is one particular group that seems to have received a bad deal - the ray family. Nature stepped down hard on these animals, flattened them out like proverbial pancakes.

Today the rays occupy a low position in the animal scale; low in physical stature and exceedingly low in the estimation mankind has of them. The rays are fishes that command no respect, and have but few friends.

Most of the rays flap along, just above the bottom, or lie hidden there feeding on dead animal life. Every fish that dies and sinks to the bottom may become food for these depressed fishes. The few members of the family whose tails are armed with sharp, serrated spines that can stab an unwary human wader have given the entire ray clan a bad name.

The one really bad one, the so-called stingray, is probably the most numerous and the most to be feared. The unfortunate call all rays stingrays, which of course they are not. There are at least 30 varieties of these strange creatures inhabiting Gulf waters and the majority are pretty good citizens.

Both rays and sharks belong to a low order of fishes characterized by having gills instead of lungs. Like the shark, the ray has a rough file-like skin which in some is exaggerated into bumps and spines that give the body an untidy look. In the stingray the skin is as near mud-colored as a skin could be. When the ray is partly buried in the mud it is impossible to tell where the mud leaves off and the ray begins.

It's a long step from the lowly stingray, lying in the ooze, to the great manta-ray,

the largest of the entire family. It seems ironic that the manta, who has been known to weigh 3,000 pounds and be all of 30 feet across, should be the harmless one, but such is the true fact. Someone with more imagination than knowledge called these big fellows "devil fish."

Peculiar that these great lumbering creatures, often called "swimming barn doors" have no means of attack and could hardly hurt a man because they have nothing to attack with.

The skate, another low-dwelling member of the ray family, lives on sandy ocean bottoms. This is the character that lays the black shiny pillow-like eggs with a "horn" on each of the four corners; in fact a "square egg." At certain times of the year these egg capsules, each two or three inches long, are found washed up on sloping beaches. They're called mermaid's purses, devil's pouches or seapillows.

The skate itself is harmless, but being one of the members of the ray family belongs to the riff-raff of the sea and is dealt with severely whenever caught. Their capture is easy for they pucker along the bottom, gulping down anything in the way of flesh they can find.

They will swallow a hook without a moment's hesitation. They plaster themselves to the bottom and resist the line pull with the dead weight of a lifeless stone. Poor old rays, even in death they remain low in the animal scale.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

DOOMS LANDMARK

Haverhill, Mass. - (UPI) - A landmark dating from Indian days soon will be razed to make way for a new super-highway. Known as the "Thompson Place," the colonial-type dwelling has stood for 312 years. On the southeast peak of the roof is an original Ben Franklin lightning rod.

Russia To Lead In Skilled Workers

Washington - (Science Service) - The man who steered America's participation in the International Geophysical Year says that American workers will soon be outnumbered by skilled workers in Russia.

Dr. Joseph Kaplan, physicist at the University of California at Los Angeles, said that as time goes on, the U.S. worker will be outnumbered by the skilled workers in other parts of the world, even in Communist China.

"As far as the USSR is concerned, this time may already be here and if that is not so, then it is not far in the future. When we are outnumbered two to one, each American must be the equal of at least two in other countries."

In his speech prepared for the President's Conference on Occupational Safety here, Dr. Kaplan stressed that other countries' numerical advantages mean that "we can no longer afford millions of disabling injuries and thousands of occupational fatalities."

Continued Winter Weather in Store

Suitland, Md. - (Science Service) - Continued wintry weather is in store for most of the nation for the coming month, the U.S. Weather Bureau here reports.

The Bureau's 30-day outlook calls for temperatures averaging below seasonal normals over all areas except the extreme Northeast and Southeast. The coldest weather is predicted for the western half of the country.

Precipitation is expected to exceed normal over the entire South and Northeast, resulting in more snow than usual for March. The Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains can expect subnormal amounts. In areas not mentioned, near normal precipitation is expected.

Asian Telescope Passes Final Test

Newcastle - Upon - Thyme, England - (UPI) - Asia's largest telescope has passed its final tests and is about to be packed in 47 crates for shipment to Japan.

The firm of Sir Howard Grubb Parsons and Co., which has made and installed 74-inch telescopes on four other continents will add Asia to the list with the 74-inch instrument to be erected on Mount Chikurin, about 500 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The telescope, with its 11 1/2 ton mirror and 30 tons of moving parts, will be Asia's largest. It will be operated as a branch of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory.

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Licensing Foresters Subject of Talk

A look into the background, purpose, and problems of licensing foresters was presented by Douglas Welch, Coos Bay division, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, at a recent meeting of the Siskiyou chapter, Society of American Foresters, in Grants Pass.

Welch spoke on the development of licensure from the days of crafts and guilds to the present-day licensing of doctors, lawyers, and many other professions. He mentioned three states that currently have some degree of registering or licensing foresters.

The talk was effective in acquainting foresters with the subject. Welch is on the national advisory committee on licensing procedures, Society of American Foresters.

A guest at the meeting was Lee Hunt, Umpqua chapter chairman. Hunt invited the local foresters to attend this year's section meeting at Roseburg.

Next month's meeting will be a field trip on Elk Lumber company lands in the Prospect area. The evening program will be a discussion of forest research in southern Oregon with guest speakers from the Oregon Forest Research Center at Corvallis and Roseburg Research Center of the U.S. Forest Service.

Agadir in Rare Earthquake Area

Washington - (Science Service) - The earthquake that razed most of the Moroccan seaport of Agadir recently had its epicenter just north of that popular tourist city, an unusual area for strong earthquakes.

The earthquake's center was in the southern tip of the western extremity of the Alpidic earthquake belt, an area where sizable earthquakes seldom occur.

The seismology section of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey here has determined the epicenter to be at 9 1/2 degrees west longitude and 30 1/2 degrees north latitude. This was calculated from reports from Uppsala and Kiruna in Sweden; Stuttgart, Germany; Hungary Horse, Mont.; Eureka, Nev.; Columbia, S.C., and Fordham University in New York.

Skunk Sweetener Effective Weapon

Deming, N.M. - Mrs. Nancy Benedict recommends an effective weapon against skunks - spray deodorant.

She called police when she discovered the animal in her basement.

When they got there, the officers found Mrs. Benedict holding the animal at bay with a can of deodorant. Every time the skunk made a move, the 29-year-old housewife sprayed him.

And more important, the skunk didn't fight back.

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