



BRITISH EXERCISE—A British Royal Air Force Vulcan bomber passes over Mount Kenya in Kenya during a recent "Lone Ranger" exercise, which involves 9,960 mile flights from Britain to Kenya and back at the relatively low altitudes of 42,000 and 44,000 feet. Similar exercises are carried out regularly. —(UPI Telephoto)

District of Columbia Voting Rights, Home Rule Discussed

Washington—(CQ)—While most Americans are trying to decide how to vote in the forthcoming elections, nearly one million residents of the nation's capital are looking ahead to 1964 when they too might be permitted to cast their ballots for President and Vice President.

Washingtonians have been denied this right for 100 years.

Currently pending before Congress are two separate, but related, proposals dealing with the voting rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia. The first would provide Capital residents with national suffrage, the right to vote for President and Vice President. The second deals with local suffrage, more popularly known as "home rule."

Of the two, the national suffrage proposal appears to have the better chance of enactment.

Constitutional Problem

In authorizing the formation of a federal seat of government, the Constitution gave to Congress the power of "... exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district..." It made no provision for voting machinery in the district.

Many students of constitutional law feel that the denial of national suffrage to Washingtonians was never intended by the framers of the Constitution. They regard it as an oversight that should have been corrected long before the city of Washington had grown to its present size and importance.

Pro-suffrage forces feel the only way to give Washingtonians a vote in national elections would be to amend the Constitution, a procedure requiring approval by two-thirds of the House and Senate and ratification by three-fourths of the states in the Union.

Early in 1960 the Senate passed a resolution containing three proposed constitutional amendments, one of which would give the District of Columbia representation in the Electoral College and non-voting delegates to the House.

The House judiciary committee lifted the hopes of many Washington residents May 17 when it approved an amended version of the Senate-passed resolution. The committee streamlined the measure to make it more acceptable to House conservatives. It dropped the provision for non-voting delegates to the House and limited to three the number of D.C. representatives in the Electoral College, the same number allotted to the least populous state in the Union.

The resolution now faces the House Rules Committee whose Chairman, Howard W. Smith (D-Va.), has said he was not opposed to a limited voting rights bill. It is expected to meet little opposition on the House floor. If the House passes the measure by a two-thirds majority, it would go back to the Senate which would then vote on agreeing to the amended House version. Following this, the resolution would be sent to the legislatures of the states for ratification.

If ratified by three-fourths, or 38, of the states within seven years, it would become

the 23rd amendment to the Constitution.

Home Rule

The second of Washington's two suffrage proposals—a so-called home rule bill—faces tougher sledding.

Under the current system of government, Congress has complete jurisdiction over District affairs. Each year it must approve the city's budget, provide appropriations from local tax revenues and pass on changes in municipal law.

Advocates of self-government long have maintained that Washingtonians would do a better job of handling local affairs than a generally disinterested Congress. Home rule proposals have attracted wide support in recent years, but the Southern-dominated House District Committee has successfully stifled every measure that has come before it. Five times within the past decade the Committee has blocked House action on Senate-passed home rule bills.

Opponents of home rule cite four major arguments: 1. that the Constitution does not sanction self-government in the District; 2. that home rule would conflict with the concept of a federal city; 3. that it would impair fiscal relationships between the District and the federal government; 4. that the District now enjoys exceptionally clean government as compared with most other large cities.

Negro Influence Seen

An additional reason for opposition to home rule, strongly felt by Southerners in Congress, is that self-government would mean a government controlled or powerfully influenced by the District's Negro residents, who now constitute a majority of the population.

Immediately following Senate approval of a home rule bill in 1959, Rep. Abraham J. Multer (O-N.Y.) filed a discharge petition in the House to force a bill to the floor, bypassing the District Committee. As of May 26, the petition had about 200 of the 219 signatures required.

Time is running out for home rule legislation in 1960. The principle of self-government for the District has been endorsed by President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon and by many other leading government figures, but with Congress scheduled for adjournment in early July, its prospects are dim.

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Local Man Named Grand Knight for Year by Council

Bill Dugan, Medford, was named grand knight for 1960-61 at a meeting of the Rogue River Council of the Knights of Columbus June 13.

Other officers elected were Bill McKibben, deputy grand knight; Joe Kindell, chancellor; George Holzgang, recorder; Bob Hamelin, warden; Mike Altobello, treasurer; Lee Meeker, trustee; Jerry Krueger, advocate; Wally Nelson, inside guardian; and Dave Turner, outside guard. The Grand Knight will

name a general program chairman and individual chairmen to head the committees of the 6-point program under which every council of the Knights of Columbus operates.

The outline of the program includes religious, fraternal, youth, council and civic activities and a publicity chairman.

Presented during the meeting was the Star Council certificate, symbolizing that the local organization during the past year has fulfilled the obligation of the 6-point program and has met and surpassed the required membership quota.

Hamelin received the trophy awarded for the first time this year for being the outstanding bowler of the council.

Announcement was made that the Roseburg council will host a dinner at the Elks hall in Roseburg June 25 to which all Knights are invited. Extending the invitation was District Deputy John Hochstatter on behalf of the Roseburg council.

To augment voluntary contributions toward the erection of a Knights hall, the Council brothers are sponsoring a pickup of merchandise to be sold at auction. Persons wishing to dispose of anything that can be resold are asked to telephone Val Albert or Bill Dugan before the pick up day Saturday, June 18.

Chile Earthquakes Preceded by Nova

Cambridge, Mass.—(Science Service)—Just before the series of devastating earthquakes hit Chile, astronomers there discovered a new nova of fifth magnitude, visible to the unaided eye but too far south to be seen from the U.S.

The nova is red in color and is located near the third magnitude star Gamma in the constellation Triangulum Australe.

A nova is a star that suddenly increases in brightness and then fades back into obscurity. It may brighten in a matter of a few days, then fade to magnitude 15 or 16 during a period of one to two years.

Delayed news of the nova's discovery was received at Harvard College observatory, clearing house for astronomical information in the Western hemisphere.

Sleepwalker Turns In False Alarm

Helena, Mont.—An early morning dash was made by firemen to a Helena house. A woman called for help when a neighbor boy ran into her house shouting "fire, fire."

It turned out 14-year-old Keith Knight was sleepwalking.

Police Car Clacker Not on the Beam

Waukesha, Wis.—The Waukesha county district attorney's office dug back into its records and reviewed all recent cases in which speeds of motorists were clocked by squad cars.

The sheriff's department discovered it had been using a squad car in which the speedometer was 12 miles an hour off.

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