

Congress Adjournment Gives Johnson Convention Weapon

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent

Washington - The Johnson-Rayburn decision to recess Congress until after the presidential nominating convention over has all the earmarks of a move designed to give the Texas senator the leverage he badly needs if he is to stop Sen. Kennedy from getting the top spot on the Democratic ticket.

As is now stands, a week before the convention at Los Angeles, Kennedy is given a strong lead over Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson in delegates votes. The other contenders are back with the favorite sons in holding only a relatively small number of delegate votes.

Johnson's momentary problem is how to stop Kennedy from running away with the big prize before the first ballot has gotten all the way down the roll call to Wyoming. Even if he can stop Kennedy's bandwagon, Johnson may not be able to secure the nomination itself - but first things first.

While there is a tendency here to discount Johnson's chances, no one who knows him and his powers of backstage manipulation counts him out. The fact that Congress will return to work after the convention will enhance Johnson's power and strengthen the best hand he has at the convention.

Johnson's trump is not his record of serving as the Senate majority leader the past five years - even though it is a commendable record in some important respects. His trump at the convention will be that whatever happens, Johnson is going to be a man everyone in the Democratic party is going to have to contend with after the convention and the election are over.

When it is all over, Johnson will either be President (or vice president) or the leader of the Senate once more. This consideration will be brought into sharper focus at the convention because Johnson's power to make or break legislation will doubtless be impressed heavily upon the wavering delegates by his backers. For what Congress is setting aside until after the convention is a slate of legislative business that will keep virtually every pressure group in the country on tenterhooks.

The labor leaders who might otherwise give the moderate Texan the back of their hand at a presidential convention will have to walk more carefully now because they badly want enactment of the new higher minimum wage law which Johnson and Speaker Sam Rayburn can get passed or killed in the August session after the convention. The same holds for medical care to the aged, housing, sugar, school construction, highway building, foreign tax credits and self-employed pension allowances.

To the multiple pressure groups in this country, whether they be contractors, retired persons, bankers, doctors, manufacturers or educators, Johnson will have a powerful appeal if they visualize him as the man who can sink or save their pet cause. They can put pressure on delegates, and delegates can often be swayed by such considerations.

To suppose that Johnson would not use this sort of raw political power is to underestimate his driving ambition to be the No. 1 man in this country, indeed in all the world. A lobbyist for a national organization tells a story which illustrates how Johnson can operate in this manner.

The Senate foreign relations committee last winter was taking up a bill to repeal the 1948 Connally amendment to the World Court resolution. The Connally amendment states that the World Court shall not have jurisdiction in "matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the United States as determined by the United States."

Under pressure from Texas to have the amendment sponsored by his former colleague from Texas, Tom Connally, Johnson is reported to have

advised leaders of the American Bar association that they would be well advised not to testify in behalf of repealing it - if they wanted the Senate to act on a bill that lawyers were pushing to permit self-employed persons credits for retirement purposes. In any event, the Connally repealer never got out of committee and the self-employed pension bill is awaiting Senate action when Congress returns.

Limited To Senate
Johnson's recognized effectiveness in this sort of wheel-and-deal situation has to date been limited to the Senate, where he knows the strength and weakness of every senator he has to contend with. Johnson is less effective outside of Washington, where he does not feel at home in a sea of strange faces.

The Los Angeles convention will be a mixture of these conditions - many familiar figures with whom Johnson knows how to joust, but many un-

familiar delegates who have nothing to lose or gain personally no matter what power play Johnson is working from a hotel room.

The hard test of this Texas tactician is at hand.

Dr. Bray Resumes Practice in City
Dr. Paul D. Bray has announced that he will resume his chiropractic practice in Medford at 317 Lozier lane. The doctor has degrees from the University of California and the Western States college, Portland, in both the chiropractic and naturopathic physician fields. He has been practicing in Pendleton for the past several years, following his association with his father's office in Medford in 1949-1956. He and his wife, Inez, are temporarily residing with the doctor's father.



CONTESTANTS COOL OFF—Cooling their feet in a pool are, from left, Barbara Gale Feldman, Miss Massachusetts; Anita Simons, Miss Wyoming; Twila Kathryn Fleckten, Miss North Dakota; Marilyn Jean Stalcup, Miss Missouri, and Judith Richards, Miss Michigan, all contestants in the Miss Universe contest at Miami Beach, Fla.

Crash Kills Two In Eugene Area

Eugene APD - A mother and her son were killed and four other persons were injured early today in a two-car collision about eight miles south of here.

The victims were Mrs. Arlene Marie Mooney, 28, and her son, Steven Richard Mooney, 7, of Reedsport.

Injured were the woman's husband, Richard L. Mooney, 32; two other sons, Scott Allen Mooney, 5, and Kevin Lee Mooney, 2, and the driver of the other car, Warner Richard Hibbert, 23, Springfield. Extent of injuries was undetermined but state police indicated they were non-critical.

State police, who were still investigating, said the collision occurred just north of Goshen Junction. Hibbert, who was alone in his car, was traveling north and the Mooney family was going south in their station wagon when the accident occurred about 2:22 a.m., state police said.

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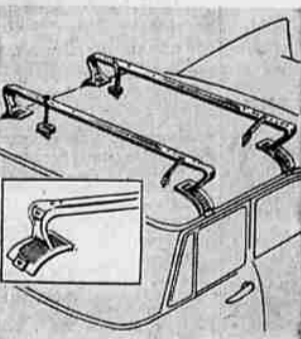
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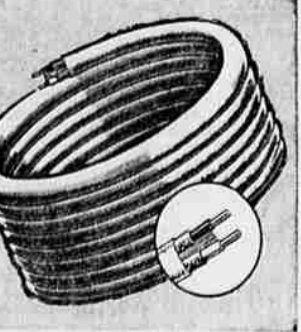
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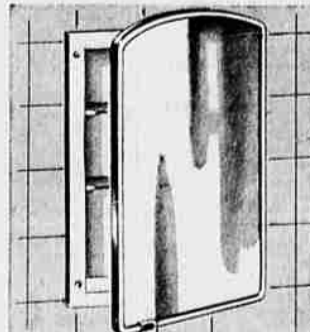
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