

Subcommittee Aims Wiretapping Bill

Washington - (UPI) - The Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee today opened hearings on a bill to clarify conflicting laws and court rulings on wiretapping.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), chairman of the subcommittee, said federal laws against the practice have failed to wipe it out.

The subcommittee's first witness, Brooklyn, N. Y., Dist. Atty. Edward S. Silver, was expected to argue that it is necessary to use telephone eavesdropping to fight organized crime.

Subcommittee member Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) has said that no American citizen is safe from wiretapping.

One of the proposals up for consideration is a bill by Dodd to impose stiff penalties for wiretapping by federal and local officials and by private detectives. In some states, including New York, police can tap wires under state laws. Others permit tapping with court order.

TEST REQUIRED
Washington - Starting in 1917 congress required literacy tests to curb immigration.

Washington Report

By William S. White
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Washington - Meanwhile, back at the home ranch...

Though one would hardly know it because of the great preoccupation with Cuba and Laos and all that, significant things have been going on of late do mestically.

The store at home is still being kept by Congress. And, actually, the work there has improved both in quality and in quantity while national attention has been mixed in painful intensity on foreign affairs.

The great, cumbersome congressional law-making machine has been moving much faster and much smoother than before. Almost the situation suggests that Congress is better off at those rare times when it is able to work under the fewest spotlights - those lights which tempt a fellow to grandstand it rather than to play it solid.

At ANY rate, the legislative program is moving forward soundly. This is not necessarily "President Kennedy's program," though in the short-hand of custom it is usually so described. Rather, it is partly his, partly the creation of "Kennedy Democrats"

In Congress, but also in part the creation of an informal congressional consensus involving both parties.

In short, nearly every major bill being passed-and now they are being passed in fairly quick order-represents simply a series of compromises. The president gets something and gives up something. So do the congressional Democrats. So do the congressional Republicans.

To speak breathlessly, therefore, of brilliant presidential "victories" and of crushing presidential "defeats" is only a rather lazy and melodramatic oversimplification. There have been, and there will be, very few clear-cut and absolute Kennedy "victories" or "defeats" either.

TAKE the minimum wage bill as an example. When, in a preliminary test, the House rejected substantial parts of that measure, as wanted by President Kennedy, it was proclaimed that a tremendous "coalition" of conservative southerners and Republicans had surely done him in.

But now that he has finally got an in-the-middle bill, having some things he wanted and some he didn't, it is announced that this "coalition" is dead and buried. Pre-

mature is the word for both reports.

The "coalition" never was quite so massive and quite so powerful and determined as advertised. And it is not nearly so dead-as it is now pictured. The Kennedy then prematurely declared to be just about finished in Congress is now prematurely declared to be ready to run right through Congress with everything he may want hereafter.

There is no real prospect that he will now get all, nor even practically all, he wants. Just so, there never was any truth in the supposition that Congress was about to tear him to pieces.

It is a practical certainty that he will do pretty well with Congress all through this session, and probably the next one. But it is quite as improbable that he will score anything like a hundred per-

cent as it is that he will demand and get some wild and wonderful list of reformist legislation.

This is going to be just what its composition plainly forecast from the start: a mildly liberal Congress more inclined to expand past social legislation than to break any vast new ground, except possibly, and to some degree, in federal aid to education.

For fundamentally nothing has changed politically since last November. The country spoke then in a moderate, middling tone, narrowly electing a moderately liberal Democratic president over a moderately conservative Republican. But it hedged a bit by giving the Republicans a slight increase in numbers in Congress. All this is still the central tone politically.

CITY EXPANDS
Albuquerque, N. M. - This city led the U.S. in territory annexation during 1950.

Stroke Fails To Halt Anniversary Party

San Rafael, Calif. - (UPI) - Even a mild stroke failed to interrupt a golden wedding anniversary party for Mr. and Mrs. Marion Beeman, Vinita, Okla.

Mrs. Beeman, 72, collapsed during the party at the home of her son in San Rafael. The celebrants transferred the party to San Rafael General Hospital, and the hospital supplied an anniversary cake.

Cardinal Spellman To Undergo Surgery
New York - (UPI) - Francis Cardinal Spellman was to be operated on today for a detached retina.

Dr. Grama Clark was assigned to perform the operation on the 72-year-old prelate's right eye at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center Eye Institute. The cardinal entered the hospital Saturday.

Father, Children Killed by Train

Sumner, Wash. - (UPI) - A father and his two daughters were killed Monday night when the car in which they were riding was struck by a passenger train at a crossing about three miles north of here.

The victims were identified as Theodore D. Couture, 29, of Sumner, Roberta, 6, and Pamela, 3.

A state patrol officer said the crossing was unmarked "except for an 'X' sign." The official report said the cause of the accident was Couture's "failure to yield the right of way."

An eyewitness, Gilbert Teitzel, Sumner, said the train was sounding its whistle as it approached the crossing. He said the force of the collision knocked the car "about 100 yards."

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A VERMONT FARMER trusted his 20-year-old son in Boston alone for the first time. The lad arrived home two days later with an empty wallet but a look of utter bliss. "What delayed you?" demanded the alarmed farmer. "Paw," replied the lad, "I met a red-headed girl just before I was going to climb on the bus for home two days ago, and I don't know what you call it, Paw, but from now on that's my hobby!"

This week's prize "overheard" is submitted by Polly Kahn. A visitor from the South was showing his young son the sights of mid-Manhattan. The boy pointed to St. Patrick's Cathedral and asked, "What's that building, Pa?" The father unhesitatingly replied, "Son, that is New York City's Baptist church!"

Mike Connolly cites a Hollywood star who knew instinctively how to behave when invited to the Flower Show. He got potted. Mike has also discovered the one way to keep a couple of jumps ahead of his wife. He plays checkers with her.

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