

12 A Bill Approved in House; Set for Long Senate Wait

Washington—UPI—The record \$47.8 billion defense money bill, approved by the House, appeared to be in for a long wait before the Senate gets around to it.

The House passed the big appropriation bill last week, producing no real question about its general provisions during two days of debate.

But debate was expected to assume filibuster proportions over literacy tests in the Senate. It was scheduled to begin in the Senate Tuesday and promised difficulties for the defense bill.

Restrict Use

A filibuster over the proposal to restrict use of literacy tests as a federal voting prerequisite would make committee meetings impossible.

The Senate Military Appropriations subcommittee has held hearings on the bill, but it must hear the Pentagon's requests for restoration of House cuts before it can draft its version of the giant money bill.

The House passed the bill 388-0, and its sponsors said additional billions not carried in the legislation will be spent on nuclear development, arms aid to other countries and military construction in the United States and abroad.

New Hampshire has the lowest homicide rate of any state in the Union. It was only 0.3 per thousand in 1958, the latest year for which figures are available.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Man Has Gotten into Act of Producing Precious Gems

Nature has always held a monopoly on the making of precious gems, but man has tried to get into the act—with nature's help.

A marine worm may sneak inside an oyster shell and deposit an egg. By chance it might be an infertile egg. It is pushed and shoved by the muscular contractions of the oyster body, but it sticks.

Like the human system builds a scab over a cut, the oyster body chemistry tries to isolate the hard object by covering it over with nacre, or shell material. It's a long and tedious process. Nacre does not run like water; it takes years for a single thin layer.

Try For Pearl

By duplicating the action of the marine worm, man conceived the idea of placing some hard, small object into the soft body of a mollusk which would irritate the poor thing, and maybe a pearl could be produced, provided, of course, that the oyster could be located several years hence.

The operation was simple: Just catch the oyster, make a tiny incision in the watery body and insert a grain of sand or grit. The operation itself was usually successful, but about 40 per cent of the patients died from shock. Then the long wait and the final search.

Too often someone came along and gathered the oyster. And, too, every oyster has a great many enemies. The chances of again locating an individual mollusk several years after the operation was rather remote.

The wheel, a much larger animal than the oyster, was stronger and was used extensively. Trouble is, the wheel is univalve and has the ability of moving from place to place. At the end of five or six years it was hard to find.

Oyster Choice

But the home-loving oyster was fixed. It always stayed in one place, so it got the nod as a manufacturer of pearls.

The Japanese people, before the war, tried raising these pearls in captured mollusks. They, too, came up with a clever idea. They carved a tiny image from stone or some other hard substance and inserted this into the mantle of the oyster. After years of body chemistry the oyster built up layer after layer of nacre, covering the tiny image with mother-of-pearl. The result was an image of pearl.

During its formation, and as long as the pearl, either natural or artificial, is inside the oyster body, it is a "thorn in the side" — a cross the oyster has to bear. Like a sandspur under a saddle blanket, it causes some degree of trouble.

Little wonder that some pearls are shaped like a teardrop. The poor old oyster that produced it probably did a lot of crying.

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1962

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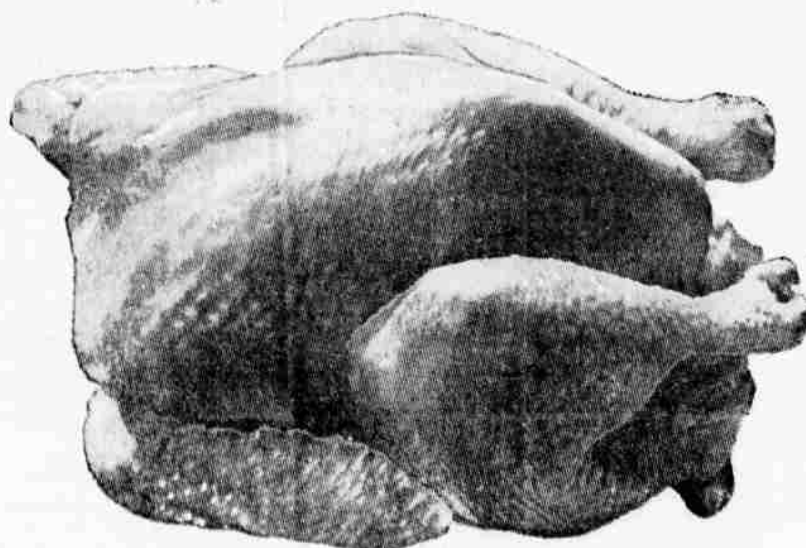
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