Religion in America

Many of Isaiah's Sermons Could Be Used in Present Day

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

During a recent Senate debate on housing legislation, Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) pleaded for new controls over "urban sprawl" which leaves no open space between developments.

To bolster his argument, he read from the Bible a warning voice 2,700 years ago by the prophet Isaiah:

"Woe to those who join house to house,

"Who add field to field, . . .

"Until there is no more room . . ."

That Isaiah is still being quoted in legislative assemblies, after 27 centuries, will come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the Old Testament book which bears his name.

Isaiah was one of the greatest of the Hebrew prophets. He spoke passionately about the problems of his own time and place. But his generation had much in common with our own, and many of his sermons might have been preached to an American congregation of the year 1963.

Isaiah poured out his message to the children of Israel for a period of about 40 years, beginning around 740 B.C. This was a time when the kingdom of Judah was under constant threat of attack by a ruthless aggressor, the Assyrian empire.

People Were Faithful

It was a time when people were very punctilious about keeping up the external appearances of religious devotion. They kept all of the feasts and were faithful in their attendance at solemn assemblies.

Beneath this superficial piety, however, Isaiah saw a spreading moral rot.

There were grave social injustices in the land. But the people who controlled the power structures of society were not doing very much to correct them. In fact, some were trying to perpetuate oppressions.

Although the nation was enjoying economic prosperity, there were vast numbers of poor people who did not share in it. The well-fed weren't concerned about them; they were solely interested in piling up more luxuries for themselves.

To escape from anxiety about the international situation, or out of boredom, many of the "best" people had begun to drink heavily, and to engage in promiscuous sexual adventures.

It was to this people that Isaiah spoke. And he made clear that the warnings were not his own, but the words of the Lord.

Contempt For Lip Service

Isaiah said God had only contempt for a people who "honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me."

"Hear the word of the Lord," he cried.

"Bring me no more vain offerings; your incense is an abomination to me.

"Your solemn assemblies and your appointed feats, my soul hates; they have become a burden to me.

"Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen while your hands are full of blood.

"But wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes;

"Cease to do evil, learn to do good;

"Seek justice, correct oppression, defend the fatherless, support the widow."

Again and again, Isaiah stressed that just treatment of all men was not merely an incidental aspect of religion, but the heart and core of it. And he said that God was angry at every wrong inflicted upon the weak or disadvantage members of society.

Speaks of the Weak

"What do you mean by crushing my people.

"By grinding the faces of the poor" says the Lord God of Hosts."

He also spoke unequivocally about the rising rate of alcoholism, the vain and provocative feminine display, and other symptoms of moral decadence which he saw in a materialistic and self-centered society.

"Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may run after strong drink;

"Who tarry late into the evening, until wine inflames them."

And in another place he pronounced a woe upon "the daughters of Zion who are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go."

"Hear the word of the Lord," Isaiah cried to the rulers and people of his day.

"The Lord of Hosts says . . . I will turn my hand against you.

"And will smelt away your dross as with lye

"And remove all of your alloy . . .

"Zion shall be redeemed by justice

"And those in her who repent, by righteousness.

"But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together,

"And those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed."

Try these on your Bar-B-Cue

4-H NEWS

Smart Cookies

The regular meeting of the Smart Cookies 4-H club was called to order recently at the home of Mrs. W. R. Florey by Kayrn Ricks, club president.

There were six members present and a visitor, Jeannie West.

Shuree Davis led the club in the pledge of allegiance and Myrna Young led in the 4-H pledge. Following, it was announced that the slumber party had been changed to July 20.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Florey, July 23.

Alice Menger,
Reporter

Central Point Porkies

The Central Point Porkies 4-H club meeting was called to order by Tracey Legler, president, at the home of George Johns, June 10.

Mr. Johnson commented on the lamb show June 22 and 23. Mr. Johnson gave a quiz on the pork cuts of a hog. Following that, Don Herzog showed a film on hog judging.

The next meeting will be held at the Legler home.

Chris Johns,
Reporter

Eugene Man Dies In Highway Crash

Yreka, Calif. — (UPI) — Mills Barton Marsh, 73, Eugene, was killed when his car collided headon with a pickup truck on U.S. Highway 99 23 miles south of here Tuesday.

William Howard Perry, 24, Montague, Calif., driver of the pickup truck, suffered facial cuts and bruises.

The California Highway Patrol said Marsh, apparently lost control of his car while coming out of a curve and his southbound car skidded across the highway into the northbound lane, striking Perry's pickup truck. Both vehicles were demolished.

Stewart Holbrook In Portland Hospital

Portland — (UPI) — Oregon writer and historian Stewart Holbrook was in Good Samaritan Hospital here today for observation.

Holbrook entered the hospital Monday. He was to be there for about a week.

He said, however, he plans to make an annual trip to New Hampshire in early August.

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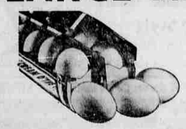

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Old Art of Filibustering May Reach High in Summer

By WARREN DUFFEE
United Press International

Washington — (UPI) — Filibustering is as old as parliamentary debate itself but the "state of the art," as the military would say, may reach a new high in skilled performance in the U. S. Senate this summer.

A filibusterer in a legislative body is one who delays action by talking to consume time or by dilatory tactics or other artifices.

The expected debate over President Kennedy's civil rights program could spawn such a talkathon and it could be the toughest in the Senate's history.

No Senator really wants a filibuster, with its sleepless nights, bad digestion, boring days and the strain of constant friction.

But one now appears inevitable. And a well-knit band of experienced Southerners under Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) is ready for it.

This is nothing new. They stay ready, year in and year out, ever on guard against racial bills. As a result, their teamwork and technique this time may be the most effective since Julius Caesar in the Roman Senate became one of history's first recorded filibusterers.

Southerners Win

The Southern bloc has won every all-out filibuster against major civil rights measures since Civil War reconstruction days. In fact, Russell's seasoned forces have stayed off every major effort to weaken the Senate's cloture rule for limiting debate since it was adopted in 1917.

The so-called gag rule is the Gibraltar of the Southern defenses. It requires a two-thirds majority of all Senators voting to limit debate.

The Senate voted cloture for the first time in 27 years last year in curbing a talkathon by "economic liberals" against President Kennedy's space satellite communications bill. But civil rights was not involved.

The record shows that cloture has been invoked five times since the rule was adopted while 22 tries have failed. And it never has been imposed on a civil rights filibuster.

Liberals backing the President's civil rights proposals well know they must clear the cloture hurdle to win their battle. They hope for more support than ever this year against the backdrop of nationwide racial unrest. But they also know the odds and the long record of past failures are against them.

Give Origin

The word filibuster is derived from "Filibusteros." These were West Indian pirates who scourged the southern seas in small craft called "filibotes." Hence, use of the term for tactics by minorities that opposing majorities regarded as piratical.

British parliamentarians were old hands at filibustering by the early 17th century and the French in the early 19th century developed "clôture," or a limit on debate when enough lawmakers had had enough.

Senate historians say American filibusters of a sort even occurred in the Continental Congress as far back as 1789. By the mid-1830's they were well established practice. Most of them succeeded.

Russell's Dixieland band includes 18 Southern Democrats and Sen. John G. Tower (R-Texas). They operate with the skill, stamina and teamwork of a well-drilled, battle-seasoned military unit.

Their success lies in organization, planning, discipline, thorough preparation, dedicated determination and expert knowledge of every rule and hook in the Senate's rules and operating precedents.

Russell's troops are organized into three squads of six senators, each under a team captain, with the veteran Georgia Democrat directing overall strategy.

Teams Operate

If around-the-clock sessions are called in an effort to crack a civil rights filibuster, each southern team stays on "duty" for 24 hours at a stretch, dividing itself into three two-man units. Each of the latter holds forth for eight hours, splitting the time with one man speaking and the other serving as his "lookout" and helper.

This, each southerner "works" only every third day and can get well rested in the meantime.

The around-the-clock sessions also give the southern forces one of their most effective weapons — the quorum call — for harassing their foes. This is a device to round up missing members.

Under the rules, any senator can demand the presence of a majority (51) senators at the end of any speech or other item of "business," however minor. But the civil rights supporters have to provide the majorities — perhaps three or four times without warning between midnight and dawn. The southerners can — and do — stay away except for the two on watch.

Thus the physical burden is more on the majority than the filibustering minority. Senators often have to catch naps as they can in their offices, in the cloakrooms, or in improvised bunk rooms near the senate chamber.

The strain begins to tell after two or three nights, but seldom on the well rested filibuster forces.

Six Nights Long

The Senate's last continuous civil rights talkathon lasted from Feb. 29 to March 6 in 1960 over a House-passed bill. It included six all night sessions, with the Senate at one stretch remaining in continuous session from Monday morning until Saturday evening.

The senators took a truce recess over Sunday but returned Monday morning and stayed continuously until late Tuesday. A cloture motion failed two days later and the Senate continued to debate civil rights off and on into April.

Other filibusters down the years have lasted as long as two months but not in continuous session.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.) is the Senate's current filibuster champion. He held forth continuously for 24 hours and 18 minutes in 1957 against a compromise civil rights bill but was aided by interruptions totaling an hour and 18 minutes.

Thurmond wrestled the title from Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.), who spoke for 22 hours and 26 minutes in 1953 against a Tidelands Oil Bill, with no breaks except occasional questions from other members.

But some old timers rate a 1949 effort by Sen. Allen J. Ellender, (D-La.) as the all-time iron man performance. Ellender spoke for 12 hours and 10 minutes with no interruptions or breaks of any kind. He was opposing a change in the cloture rule.

U.S. Airman Defects To Cuba

Miami — (UPI) — Havana Radio reported Tuesday night that a Cuban-born U.S. airman, reported missing on a flight from Miami to Pensacola, has defected to the Communist island.

The news broadcast identified the pilot as Roberto Ramos Michelena.

Ramos, 26, an airman stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base near Pensacola, was reported missing Monday after he vanished on the scheduled flight.

In Washington the Defense Department confirmed that Ramos was "missing."

"The pilot, Roberto Ramos Michelena, has deserted the United States Air Force and has returned to our country," the Havana radio broadcast said.

The broadcast said Ramos, flying a T34 training plane owned by the Tyndall AFB Aero Club, landed in Cuba Monday.

The airman's wife, Gloria, 20, said she did not understand why Ramos defected. She said Ramos had been in the Air Force for six years and was "happy with his work."

Ramos, on a week end pass from the base, was to fly the T34 to Homestead Air Force Base just south of Miami to pick up a friend, then return home. The search began when he failed to show up at Homestead.

Pine Plywood Passes All Tests

Portland — (UPI) — The nation's first Southern Pine plywood made on a large-scale production basis has passed laboratory and field tests with flying colors, Georgia-Pacific Corp. said here Wednesday.

The pine sheathing, described by G-P as "interchangeable with Douglas fir plywood" is to go on the market early next year.

The pine plywood is to be processed at a new G-P mill now under construction in Fordyce, Ark.

Pine timber suitable for plywood manufacture is "plentiful on Georgia-Pacific's Arkansas timberlands," a company spokesman said.

Southern Pine plywood could be competitive with Douglas fir in southern and midwest markets. Douglas fir has long been a leader in construction because of its strength and adaptability for plywood.