

Eisenhower May Face Rebellious Congress in View Of Taft Anger Over Appointment of Martin Durkin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Robert A. Taft's sudden blast at President-elect Eisenhower for his choice of a secretary of labor today posed the possibility Eisenhower could face as rebellious a Congress as those President Truman had in recent years.

Congressmen were wondering whether the Ohio senator's bitter denunciation of Eisenhower's selection of Martin P. Durkin to the labor post—Taft called it "incredible"—meant:

1. All-out war between the forces of Eisenhower and Taft in the incoming Republican administration; or
2. A temporary, isolated blow-up growing out of Taft's tenderness toward his own Taft-Hartley labor relations law.

If the answer turns out to be "yes" to the first question, then the result could be the same frustration of Eisenhower's legislative program that has afflicted many of Truman's proposals.

Throughout the Truman administration, conservative Southern senators have joined with Republicans to block most "Fair Deal" domestic legislation.

The few Republican senators at the Capitol today were exceedingly wary about stepping into any potential struggle between the President-elect and Taft.

But there were straws in the wind.

Police Seek Escaped Cons

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—West Virginia state police were pressing the search today for five dangerous escaped convicts from Pennsylvania after nabbing one fugitive in a Western Union office here last night.

James Milk, 25, of Duquesne, Pa., was unarmed when arrested as he came in to pick up money he expected to get by wire from home.

Police identified him as one of the five convicts from Pittsburgh's Western State Penitentiary who held a family of five as prisoners for two days.

Out of the 10 knife-wielding convicts who broke out of prison Sunday, five were still at large today. One of them was not with the quintet who holed up from Sunday morning until early yesterday at the home of Knute Lerby in the little mining town of Rea, Pa.

Pennsylvania state police said the convicts took two cars, two axes, knives and clothes from the Lerby place and sped toward West Virginia. An automobile later found abandoned in Wheeling, W. Va., tallied with a description of a car taken from the Lerbys.

Group Favors Censorship

WASHINGTON (AP)—Police censorship of all comics and pocket-size books was viewed with favor today by lawmakers investigating ways to curb sales of obscene and gruesome literature.

A special House committee engaged in the probe called for additional testimony on the subject today but most members seemed to favor the way the Detroit police handle the problem.

They heard Inspector Herbert Case yesterday detail the operations of his bureau which censors all comics and pocket-size books that are offered to sale in the Michigan city.

Case explained how enforcement of a strict state law against the sale of obscene books has kept off the news stands a large volume of material sold elsewhere in the country.

Case testified that distributors voluntarily go along with his bureau when they request a withdrawal.

MAN OUT-EATS HORSE
DAVIS, Calif. (AP)—For his size, man puts away more food than the horse, says an animal husbandman at the University of California. Carroll E. Howell, in commenting on the statement that a mature human eats 16 times his body weight in a year, claims that a hard-working horse given liberal allowances of food every day could eat only eight or nine times its weight in a year.

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Some GOP senators were hoping Taft's denunciation of the Durkin appointment was tied chiefly to the senator's concern for maintenance of the basic principles of the Taft-Hartley law.

Taft's blistering statement emphasized that Durkin was a union official and a Democrat who opposed Eisenhower. But it also stressed that he "advocated the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law."

The Ohioan has indicated willingness to go along with minor changes in the law favored by Eisenhower and union leaders. But he has made unmistakably clear that he wants no tampering with what he considers the act's essentials.

Some Senate sources were of the opinion that Taft's next moves on taking over the Republican Senate majority leader post would show whether he really planned a showdown fight with Eisenhower.

If Taft moves openly to grab that key job, it would be highly significant, these sources agree. A president must consult regularly with the majority leader to put over his legislative program.

Taft has pronounced himself "available" for the job, but he said at a news conference here after the Nov. 4 election he was not campaigning for it.

Senators at the Capitol were certain Taft has become increasingly

irritated in the last 10 days at the trend of Eisenhower appointments.

The Ohioan said he was asked to submit recommendations for Cabinet jobs and did so. But he has let it be known that not one of his first choices was selected.

In contrast, some of the Cabinet selections and White House staff appointees were close associates

of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Taft's archrival in GOP affairs for years. At the famous Eisenhower-Taft Morningside Heights conference in September, one of the points Taft emphasized most was that he had been given assurances there would be no discrimination against his supporters in appointments in the

Eisenhower administration. In yesterday's statement Taft said Herbert Brownell, who helped defeat the Ohioan in two of his presidential bids, was the "key man" in the Eisenhower appointments.

Brownell, long a close friend and adviser of Dewey, has been named as attorney general in the new Cabinet.

Taft declined to say whether he would seek to block confirmation of Durkin. He would be in a key position to try to do so as chairman of the Senate Labor Committee starting in January.

But Democratic senators predicted Taft could not do it if he tried. Some Republicans were inclined to agree.

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