

Action by the Senate late this afternoon - by an overwhelming margin - sixty-four to twelve - it passed a bill lowering the voting age to eighteen - and extending for five years the key provisions of the civil rights voting bill - designed primarily to prevent discrimination against negro voters in the south. But this latter - is against the wished of the administration - and earlier action by the house - which had approved a broader version treating all states alike. Of course - the two versions will now have to go to conference - and acceptance of the Senate version is by no means certain.

That vote taken care - the Senate moved on to the nomination of Judge Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court not to vote on it - but to start the debate. The Liberals - who oppose the nomination - concede that they won't be able to defeat it without Republican support. And that's questionable. No vote until next week some time.

POLLUTION

A first for the Justice Department - filing suit against a power company for thermal pollution - the Florida Power and Light company accused of ruining Marine life in Biscayne Bay by the discharge of heated water from two power plants. It's the first suit to be filed under FEDERAL pollution laws.

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"WEDDING")

And now

~~With that~~ - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;

presenting tonight another report - on "The Land of
Shangri-La". Lowell...

WEDDING

L. J. Tapscott - unedited

From Katmandu - Good Evening Everybody! Before I say anything about the wedding of The Crown Prince of Nepal, just a word or two about this country. Until the mid NineteenFifties this was a hermit kingdom in the Himalayas that few outsiders had seen. For more than a century the kings had been palace prisoners. Nepal was ruled by an all-powerful family known as the Ranas.

These Ranas, Jang Bahadur Rana, and his successors built fabulous palaces, wore just about the handsomest costumes to be found anywhere, enjoyed their many wives, and hunted one-horned rhino and tiger which they shot from their hewdahs or the back of elephants.

They also allowed the British to recruit soldiers from some of the tribes, especially those terrific fighters the Gurkhas from the valleys here in the Himalayas.

Then in the early Fifties there was a palace revolution. With some help from India the Rana power was broken. But King Tribhuvan died. Whereupon his son, Mahendra, took

the throne, and I was here for his Coronation in Nineteen-Fifty-Six.

Since then there have been some astonishing changes in Nepal. But, fourteen years were to pass before another Arabian nights ceremony was to take place here in The Land of Lost Horizon, the wedding of the Crown Prince, which I have just attended as the King's guest. Solong...

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SUGGESTED

"WEDDING")

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

Federal control - for the first time - in the handling
of all U.S. welfare and service funds. These funds amounted
to more than two hundred and fifty billion - held in trust
for an estimated fifty million workers. In view of which
the President said: "we must make certain" this money
"is fully protected." He added that his proposal "further
expands" on an Administration program - "to protect the
American worker as he works - when he is out of work -
and after his working career is over."

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon today proposed Federal control - for the first time - in the handling of all U.S. welfare and pension funds. These funds amounted to more than Two Hundred and Fifty Billion - held in trust for an estimated fifty million workers. In view of which - the President said - "we must make certain" this money "is fully protected." He added that his proposal "further expands" on an Administration program - "to protect the American worker as he works - when he is out of work - and after his working career is over."

LBJ RANCH

After twelve days in a hospital at San Antonio - former President Johnson was finally permitted to return home today. With Lady Bird at his side - traveling by car the seventy miles to his beloved LBJ Ranch. Doctors reporting his heart action - once again stable. Adding that he can resume normal activities - probably "within the next few weeks."

JACKSONVILLE

Friday the Thirteenth at Highlands Junior High

School in Jacksonville, Florida - billed today as a

"black Friday" - and so it was. A name-calling match

before classes this morning - quickly escalating into a

free-for-all involving hundreds of white and black students

- also, a few parents. The battle raging over a two-block

area - sending more than a hundred policemen racing to the

scene - leaving scores injured before peace was finally

restored. A Negro athletic coach - who made a futile

attempt to stem the battle - later saying: "It was like

touching a match - to a powder keg."

ROME

From the Rome Opera House - a report today that American tenor Richard Tucker - at age fifty-nine - has just become the "new" sensation of Italian opera. The critics hailing his Italian debut this week - first in "Manon Lescaut" and later in "Carmen" - as one of the highlights of the current season.

Reverse side - a storm of protest over the fact that all the women in "Carmen" - were dressed in miniskirts. Indeed, Carmen herself - in this case, American soprano Grace Bumbry - played her final scene in a dress so short - the critics compared it to a ballerina's tutu.

Now for Lowell - so long until Monday.