

~~There was~~ a lot of bustling ~~about today~~ - on Capitol Hill in Washington. You all know the reason - ~~the opening~~ the opening of a new session of Congress. The Eighty-Seventy, ~~Congress~~. Newly elected members arrived bright and early - anxious for their first experience ^{as lawmakers,} of making laws for the United States. Old hands who have been through it all before - not quite so excited. Settling back into their familiar routine - starting to work out their party strategy for the weeks to come.

46 1/2
Today heads could be seen together - in the cloak rooms. Confidential talks between old allies - and old opponents too. The familiar phrases were repeated again and again - phrases like "natural resources, foreign aid, taxes, the wheat surplus, the filibuster," And so on. Summing up - the ~~great~~ issues facing this country in ^{this} era of domestic tension and cold war.

Today's activity - mostly preliminary. Carried on in an atmosphere of comparative cordiality - that no one

expects to last ~~very~~ long. As soon as this session settles down to serious work - the legislative battles will begin to take shape. *And then, once again* ~~Or, as the political scientists put it -~~

47 Congress will show how a legislature goes about making laws for a great democracy.

PERSONALITIES FOLLOW CONGRESS

Most of today's events fell into the pattern ~~was~~ expected:— Vice President Nixon, on hand to preside over the Senate, ~~administered~~ administered the oath to Lyndon Johnson of Texas. Senator Johnson, then resigning his ~~the~~ seat -- to become our new Vice President on January Twentieth. Why did Johnson wait until the last minute - before resigning? He wanted to give his staff - a few weeks' extra pay for Senate work.

Succeeding the tall Texan ~~will~~ as Democratic leader in the Senate - Mike Mansfield of Montana. Moving into Mansfield's old spot of party whip - Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. The only surprise in this game of musical chairs - a decision by the Democrats that Johnson may still preside at party meetings, whenever Mansfield asks him to do so. This innovation, suggested by - Mansfield himself.

What about the Senate Republicans? Oh, they re-elected their old Senate leadership-unanimously.

G O P leader - Dirksen of Illinois. G O P whip - Kuchel of California. They'll be directing the minority party - in this Congress.

48
Over in the House, tough old Sam Rayburn of Texas - returns as speaker. ^{Mr.} Sam has been in the House for forty-eight years - and he'll be ~~xxx~~ seventy-nine on Friday. But on Capitol Hill they say he's still as ^{— as shrewd} shrewd & strategist ^{has} as the House/ever had.

Rayburn's opposite number is Halleck of Indiana - only sixty. Halleck, who promises to work with Rayburn on bi-partisan issues - and ~~to~~ oppose him, whenever the Republicans think the Democrats are wrong.

LAOS

~~Tonight the Laotian situation is about the same as last night - only more tense.~~

From ~~In~~ Laos ~~itself~~ - more information about the battle of Xien Khouang. Premier Boun Oum repeats that Communist invaders are pouring in from Viet Nam - to join the battle. The Laotian Premier, terming this - "massive intervention by the Reds."

In Bangkok, Thailand, the Seato Nations ~~are~~ meeting - in ~~another~~ another emergency session, ~~They~~ still agree ^{there is} ~~about the fact of~~ Red intervention in Laos. ^{But} ~~They're~~ ~~still~~ not sure - about the size of the intervention. Or whether Laos needs military aid - right now.

In London, the ^{are saying} ~~feeling is~~ there's no firm evidence that the Communists are crossing into Laos by the regiment. And Prime Minister MacMillan has not retreated from his plan to solve this Laotian crisis - by diplomacy.

Washington still goes along with - the Laotian Premier. Today President Eisenhower received intelligence reports - revealing an elaborate ~~xxx~~ conspiracy to ^{force} ~~xxxxx~~ a Communist government on Laos. Backed by weapons flown into Laos - from Russia and Red China.

State Department spokesman ^{JOSEPH REED} ~~Lincoln White~~ told a news conference - that a Soviet air lift is shuttling in and out of Laos. He added, "this is no circumstantial evidence - this is factual."

BELGIUM

Today's violence in Belgium - erupted ~~at~~ right on schedule. The demonstrators, waiting for the New Year's holiday to end - then putting an end to the peace and quiet. Hardest hit by the latest rioting - Brussels, where some Fifteen ~~seventy-five~~ thousand strikers fought a pitched battle with the police. But there ~~was~~ were casualties today in many other Belgian cities - Antwerp, Bruges, Liege, Ghent.

Premier Eyskens claims to have the situation - under control. ^{He} Insisting^s ~~that~~ he won't withdraw his austerity measures - because of what he terms, "Communist inspired civil disorder."

CUBA

Experts on Castro's Cuba are more sure than ever - that the bearded dictator wants to force us to break diplomatic relations. His latest anti-American move - an order that might make it impossible ~~for~~ for us to maintain our Embassy in Havana. Castro says we^are to have a staff - of precisely eleven. That many - to take care of a ten-story building.

Until today, we employed dozens of people - including many Cubans. The Marine Honor Guard alone - had five members. Now Castro tells our Havana Embassy - make do with eleven.

SPY

A dispatch from New Delhi states that a Soviet spy ring - has just been cracked. Three Russians, attached to the Soviet Embassy in the Indian capital - caught red-handed, gathering top secret information.

Eight Indians - accused of passing the information to them. The Indians ^{are} in jail tonight, ^{and} The Russians ^{are} - on their way home, by invitation of Jawarharlal Nehru.

TRAFFIC

The New Year's death toll on our highways comes to - three hundred and forty. Equalling the prediction - of the National Safety Council. Paradoxically, this was also - the safest New Year's on record. Many ~~more~~ more Americans were out driving - so, we chalked up a smaller percentage of fatalities. Fewer deaths ^{— that is} _λ compared to the number of cars on the road.

BASEBALL

A dispatch from Toulouse, France, doesn't seem ^{so} very important - at first glance. We are told that a recluse named Jacques Fontaine - died yesterday at the age of fifty-five. His meagre effects - sorted out today. A story like dozens of others - that come in over the news wires.

Ah, but Jacques Fontaine of Toulouse left one item - worth nothing. An American baseball - more than thirty years old. What's so interesting about that? Well, across the horsehide in faded ink is written this legend - "Babe Ruth, Nineteen Twenty Eight."

Here's the story. In Nineteen Twenty Eight Jacques was aboard a French warship - paying a courtesy call in New York harbor. Mayor Jimmy Walker invited the crew to a baseball game - at Yankee Stadium. The Frenchmen were there when the mighty bambino smashed a homer - into the stands. The ball, retrieved by young Jacques Fontaine

who asked the Yankees' home-run ~~man~~ champion to autograph it for him. The Babe did - and that particular baseball traveled to France in the gear of a French sailor.

Completely forgotten, until it bobbed up in the news again today - over thirty years later.

A curious connection - between Nineteen Twenty-Eight and Nineteen Sixty One. Between Yankee Stadium in the Bronx - and Toulouse in the South of France. Between Babe Ruth - and Jacques Fontaine.

Now - from Toulouse - to Yankee -
Dick.

ODDS

How would you like to buck odds of - twenty-six thousand to one?

Well, Ludwig Ahlberg of Springfield, ^{Massachusetts} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ made just such a bit - and won. In Nineteen Four, when Ahlberg was forty years old - he took out an insurance policy. The company mortality rates showed that - he'd never live to be ninety-seven - the odds against it - twenty six thousand to one.

The insurance officials who drew up the mortality table - they aren't around any more. But Ludwig Ahlberg - is. Celebrating his ninety-sventh birthday - today - celebrating with his own insurance.