

FILIBUSTER

*P.J. P+G. Monday, March 14, 1949.
(Given by John Kerran.)*

Today March fourteenth, nineteen forty-nine will long be remembered in Washington as the Day of the Filibuster. That Senate filibuster reached the ripe old age of fourteen days. As Senator Allen Ellender, Democrat from Louisiana, claimed the longest speech of the present talk session with eight hours to his credit and his voice still going strong.

But the suspense all day was to the Administration's hope of a compromise. This compromise to be that ~~of~~ a vote of two-thirds of the Senate be permitted to stop all filibusters except on subjects which might tend to gag a filibuster on the subject of gagging filibusters. One subject on which talk must go on.

All day it looked hopeful for this compromise, until suddenly the whole filibuster question blew up in the face of those who supported the compromise.

The latest is the Administration is ^{abandoning} ~~xxi~~ its crusade against the filibuster early tomorrow. So that the Senate can act on Rent Control Extension, and the second instalment of the European Recovery Program.

But that may not be so easy. The Republicans say they will oppose the Administration move. They want to fight on until the Southerners give up. And if they can get ^{the} ~~the~~ support of the Dixie Democrats, why they can just stall that postponement.

PACT

The Foreign Ministers of Iceland and Denmark called at our State Department today - to discuss the North Atlantic defense alliance. The Icelandic Minister spent half an hour with Secretary of State Dean Acheson, and then stayed on to talk with high officials of the State Department. On his arrival, the Icelandic representative said that his country certainly could not grant military bases to foreign powers in peace-time.

The Danish Foreign Minister told reporters that he had told State Department officials just what military help Denmark will need if she joins the alliance.

Both Iceland and Denmark have shown signs of reluctance to come in with the other nations subscribing to the Atlantic pact, because of Russian opposition. But now we hear both nations are likely to join. And Italy to follow suit. With Portugal, close neighbor of Franco Spain, still undecided.

FOLLOW PACT

Late news from Italy; increasing tension because of Italy's inclination to join the North Atlantic Security Pact. Police guards around the United States and British Consulates in Rome. With the Communist-controlled National Labor Confederation threatening a general strike. The streets of Rome are patrolled by police in trucks and jeeps, with large concentrations in the large squares. As the Communists threaten to break the power of the de Gasperi government, by staging mass demonstrations.

WESTERN UNION

In London today, the Foreign Ministers of the five Western Union countries discussed secret military and political plans, to keep Communism out of western Europe. Britain's Foreign Minister Bevin and France's Robert Schuman met with the Foreign ministers of the Benelux countries: to examine the possibility of coordinating Europe's Western Union organization with the Atlantic pact. Also the proposed Council of Europe. The idea is to join all three.

Word from London is that one result of the meeting will most certainly be the building of a higher and stronger diplomatic wall, between East and West. Russia is expected to reply by denouncing the Nineteen Forty-Two Anglo-Russian Treaty of Alliance. And also the mutual assistance treaty she signed with France in Nineteen Forty-Four. The Kremlin has already warned the Paris government that it considers the Atlantic pact incompatible with the Soviet Treaty. ~~Back to the~~

Meanwhile, as Britain's Foreign Minister Bevin

takes part in those anti-Communist defense talks of the European nations, the British Board of Trade is said to be sounding out the Kremlin, asking if the Soviets are interested in new Anglo-Russian trade talks. Because London wants to keep commerce flowing through the iron curtain. Even if the West and the East must be sharply divided in the wider field of politics.

BOYD

The Senate Interior Committee has voted ten to one to confirm the nomination of Dr. James Boyd, as Director of the Bureau of Mines. Boyd's nomination has been delayed for two years. When it first came up, John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers charged that Boyd was unqualified. And at that time the G.O.P. Eightieth Congress shelved the matter.

As for John L. Lewis, he is protesting against the nomination of the former Dean of the Colorado School of Mines, by calling out his eastern coal miners on a two-week strike. Only he doesn't call it a strike. It's a mourning period, says he.

Some four hundred and twenty-five thousand miners, employed in coal mines east of the Mississippi, started their mourning period today, by staying away from work. No picketing. No demonstrations. At the moment the steel industry says it isn't worried, because it has huge stockpiles of coal on hand. This means it can continue its record-breaking production.

WIRE TAPPING

Here in New York, people are talking about that melodramatic affair of wire-tapping at City Hall. And these are the latest developments.

Kenneth Ryan, the ex-detective who jumped to freedom from a washroom window in New York's Administration building, has surrendered. He has been indicted by the Grand Jury for "escaping from lawful custody.", and released on bail. Also, the District Attorney charges him - yes, you've guessed it - wire-tapping

ISRAEL

A United Nations dispatch from the Island of Rhodes reports that an Israeli mechanized force is in position on the border of Palestine and Trans-Jordan. Three thousand Israeli troops just north of the British defended port of Aqaba. Aqaba is Trans-Jordan's outlet to the Red Sea.

United Nations Mediator Ralph Bunch has sent a report of the situation to the U.N. Security Council at Lake Success. And in this report he indicates that both Israel and Trans-Jordan have been guilty of violating the peace in Palestine. The mediator quotes Israeli spokesmen as confirming the occupation of the Elath area on the coast of the Red Sea.

Meanwhile, in Tel Aviv, the Israeli Cabinet met in special session to study the foreign reaction to the Israeli occupation of that strip of coast line. Also, to consider the statement by Dr. Bunch that Israel appears to have breached the truce.

From Beersheba, we have an Israeli military report. It tells of Jewish troops reaching the Gulf of Aqaba and fighting only for a few minutes. The task force commander describes his advance as "Operation King Solomon." And he reports that it has been successful. The only fighting that occurred, says he, was when the troops stumbled across an Arab patrol. A few shots were exchanged, but there were no casualties. And he adds that the British force in Aqaba are apparently unconcerned at the arrival of the Israeli soldiers - and that all is quiet in the area.

RUSSIA

That shake-up in Moscow continues. Five more Soviet top ranking politicians have been fired. So we hear from Moscow today. Among them a Polithuro member who headed the Soviet State Planning Commission. Also three members of the Supreme Soviet, representing various Soviet states.

The news came out simultaneously with the Supreme Soviet - the Moscow Senate - approving Russia's new budget, which runs to fifteen billion, eight hundred and fifteen million, eight hundred thousand dollars.

Moscow reporters are finding it of some interest that the firing of the prominent politicians is dated March Fifth. That is when Foreign Minister Molotov turned over his job to Vishinsky, and moved into the Kremlin, to be closer to Premier Stalin. So it all may tie in. New faces in the ranks as well as at the top.

ADD TRUMAN

Photographers at Key West who took pictures of ~~Mr. Truman~~ from a Navy blimp of Mr. Truman swimming, thought they were involved in a first-class ^{mystery} ~~sensation~~. This when White House press secretary Charles Ross ordered all the aerial pictures suppressed. For what he called "security reasons." The pictures included the Little White House and property belonging to the Navy. All extremely secret.

But tonight Secretary Ross says that he ordered the pictures suppressed, because they were a completely unauthorized invasion of the presidential privacy. These films, he said, showed the President on his private beach -- and so he ordered them suppressed for security reasons.

CHINA

In Nanking, China, a committee of the executive Yuan, the Chinese Parliament, has voted to impeach out-going Premier Sun Fo. He is accused of having paid six hundred and fifty thousand American dollars to a young woman in Shanghai, to compensate her for a government seizure of eighty-four drums of dye - just after the war. The dye was taken because the young woman was known to be an associate of one of Japan's most important puppets in China - Chen Kung-Po. He is alleged to have given her dyes instead of currency; because dyes are at a premium on the market in China. Their price ^{was} bound to rise, even if China's currency tumbled, as it did.

When Sun Fo heard that Miss Yi had lost her dyes, he wrote letters to three successive Prime Ministers, asking for them to be returned to the young lady. But Chiang Kai-shek said No. No dyes for the ex-girl friend of the Japanese puppet.

Then Sun Fo became Premier. ~~By~~ But by this time the dyes had been sold.

So, to console the young lady of Shanghai, still weeping for her dyes, Premier Sun Fo is alleged to have ordered a government bank to pay her six hundred and fifty thousand U.S. dollars. Not heart balm, but dye-balm.

And word in Nanking is that Sun Fo is to be impeached--
put on trial -- as the National government announces ^{that} hopes
of a compromise peace with the Communists are better than
ever.

JUMP

Here's a story for the narrow-escape club. At Kelso, Washington, Pilot Donald Evans warned his passenger Thomas McGinnis to bail out. They were flying over mountains, and their engine was failing. So McGinnis jumped. Evans tried to follow, but his foot caught in the door of the plane. And there he was, dangling head downwards, the machine nose-diving to earth - at furious speed.

But Donald Evans wasn't giving up. As the slipstream buffeted him against the fuselage, he fought to free himself, banging on the door with his fists. And he succeeded, pushing himself clear. And he pulled his ripcord just in time to land with a sprained ankle, and a few bruises.

Then he heard the news. His passenger's parachute had failed to open - McGinnis had fallen two thousand feet to his death -- while he, Evans, was safe, after that perilous fight to free himself from the falling plane.

"MESSIAH"

London newspapers report additional help from America - aid which is not included in Lend-Lease. A gentleman from California newly arrived, described as Krishna Venta, with bare feet and shoulder-length curls. He says he has come to save Britain from all its troubles. How? Oh, just by showing the British people how to relax.

Krishna Venta claims to be one thousand, nine hundred years old. Also, he says he flew all the way across the Atlantic - barefoot. Perhaps he has established a new All-American record there. Further, he tells the reporters he hasn't a cent in the world. But he always manages to pay his fifty-dollars-a-day suite in one of London's best hotels, and he's never hungry. How does he do it? That's one of the secrets he will tell the long suffering British public if it will relax - and listen to him.

*Well, I'll listen, won't you,
he soon?*

BOGOTA, COLUMBIA

The news from Bogata, Columbia, in Latin America tells of serious weekend riots. Political clashes all over the Republic, with ^{many} killed and wounded.

The clashes are attributed to battles between supporters of the two major political parties - the Liberals and the Conservatives. The news dispatch ~~is~~ describes this rioting as a small scale addition of the bloody civil battle which broke into headlines last year; during the Ninth Inter-American Conference.

SPARE