

L. T. OLDS, FISHER. TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1964

(Prescott Robinson substituting)

CIVIL RIGHTS

There were two conferences in Washington today - with a single subject. What to do about the Civil Rights Bill - that has been virtually stalled on Capitol Hill for two months.

At the White House, Senate leaders met with President Johnson - and gave the President a progress report. Or rather - a "no progress" report. Senator Mansfield of Montana told Mr. Johnson - that it may be necessary to keep Congress in session for the rest of the year. The debate is going - that slowly.

Meanwhile, the Southern Senators - were holding a caucus. Their purpose being - to keep the debate slow. To prevent the Civil Rights Bill from passing the Senate - if they can. And in any case - to postpone a vote as long as possible. Their method

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is the one we're familiar with - a continuation of the droning, longwinded, word-spinning, talkathon. Senator Russell of Georgia says that he and his colleagues will not permit a decision this week - on the jury trial amendment. Their strategy on other amendments - to be worked out in future caucuses.

President Johnson needless to say - is not leaving it at that. He calls passages of the Civil Rights Bill - "an absolute necessity ." And adds that should the measure be defeated then we Americans face "dire days" ahead.

The President wants an end to the filibuster and he wants a vote. A vote in favor of - equality for all American citizens.

CANNON

Congressman Clarence Cannon of Missouri was known as - "the stormy petrel of the House of Representatives" Not a very original phrase - but rather descriptive. Because the Democrat from the Show-Me State - took part in most of the legislative battles of his time. Often against Presidents - of his own party. His preferred issue - economy in government. He gave his opinions on that to every President - from Calvin Coolidge to Lyndon Johnson.

Some of his battles - were more than metaphorical. For he punched one of his colleagues in the house. And caned - another.

As a result he was not the most popular man on Capitol Hill. But he was one of the most respected. Also - one of the most powerful. Washington isn't quite the same tonight - with the passing of Congressman Clarence Cannon at the age of eighty-five.

MAHON FOLLOW CANNON

Taking Cannon's place as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee - a different kind of personality. Congressman George Mahon of Texas - who seems never to have had a flight with anyone. He's as retiring as Cannon was belligerent. But - just as devoted to business.

Around the corridors of the House, they're saying that the Appropriations Committee - may not get as many headlines as it used to. But it wont slacken its pace either - under Chairman Mahon from the Lone Star State.

PRIMARY

The G.O.P. candidates - and the political pundits - are watching Nebraska with uncommon interest. The candidates - because one of them may emerge as an odds-on favorite to capture the nomination. The pundits because they're intrigued by the question of write-ins versus straight votes.

You already know that Senator Barry Goldwater is the only Republican candidate on the Nebraska ballot. His rivals will have to have their names - written in. All day today, their campaign managers were pleading with the electorate - to do just that. And the write-in credited with the best change - Richard Nixon.

However, even Nixon's supporters are not predicting - that the former Vice President will get a majority of the Cornhusker votes. Barry Goldwater remains - the frontrunner. Should he win in high style - some experts think that his bandwagon will start rolling toward a first-ballot nomination. A significant shift

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of votes to a write-in, however - could mean that the Goldwater drive has passed its peak.

We'll know tomorrow - when the results of this Nebraska primary are in.

MISSILES

The delegates attending the Nato conference at The Hague - have been told that a missile gap exists. And that the balance is tipped - in favor of the United States over the Soviet Union. The Nato report released today puts the difference at four to one - in intercontinental ballistic missiles. A lead only slightly narrowed by Soviet superiority - in rockets with a medium range.

Why hasn't Khrushchev started a crash program to catch up? To no one's surprise, the Nato story says he just doesn't have the rubles. Not with the mess in Soviet agriculture - plus the split in the Communist bloc. Moreover, medium range rockets are all Khrushchev needs - if he goes to war with Red China.

PANAMA

The Panama Presidential election has produced an upset, but there is a portent of more than enough trouble to keep things stirred up. Latest reports say that the Government candidate Marco Robles is about to be elected the new President over his only close opponent former president Arnulfo Arias. On the basis of virtually complete returns Robles is in - but CBS Newsman Bert Quint reported within the hour that Arias is charging irregularities - will challenge the results and is meeting with his backers to make plans for possible protests. But latest results give Robles (a moderate who espouses political separation from the United States) an insurmountable lead over Arias - a margin of some 11 - thousand votes.

CUBA

If you happen to be a mystery writer in search of a plot - you might consider the rumor that is buzzing around Havana. The rumor that Rafael Rivero and his wife - are dead.

Now, Senora Rivero was related - to Fidel Castro's brother. She was the sister - of Raul Castro's wife. Which means that the Riveros held a position of some importance - in Castro's Cuba. They were also believed to be - supporters of the bearded Castro.

They dropped out of sight - last month.

Quietly - not a word about them in the Cuban press.

The whole thing, so mysterious - that the inevitable rumor began. The rumor that the relatives of the

Castros are dead. Some say that they were executed - for trying to escape from the island. Others that the husband was shot and the wife committed suicide.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about this mystery - is Castro's silence. It's as if he were

AVIATION

The aviation news tonight - is monopolized by the ladies. By Joan Merriam of Long Beach, California - and Dorothy Julich of New York.

Joan Merriam reached Oakland - after a solo flight around the world. But her real feat was to follow the flight pattern - of Amelia Earhart. Showing that Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan charted a feasible route - even though they disappeared in the vast expanse of the Pacific a generation ago.

Dorothy Julich has apparently won - the Women's International Air Race. From Monterrey, Mexico to Gainesville, Florida. Dorothy landed her single engine Comanche - before any of her competition. But planes in this race are handicapped - according to their speed. So the aviatrix from New York wont know if she won - until tomorrow.