

*L.H. Sumner. D.D. Friday, January 3rd, 1947.*

CONGRESS--1

The new Senate of the United States convened at noon today -- with a prayer. After that, it was -- fireworks.

The Senate hall was crowded, the galleries jammed with spectators--people crowding in to attend the drama of Bilbo. All across this nation, it had been advertised amply -- that the new Senate faced immediate battle on the subject of the senator from Mississippi, who is charged with incitement to keep the negroes from voting, and with accepting gifts from war contractors. Should or should not Bilbo be allowed to take his seat in the Senate? The drama was sharpened by the fact that the question would come up right away, as soon as the newly elected Senators were taken in. On the alphabetical list -- Bilbo was second. So there was no delay in starting the fireworks.

The Republicans had decided to stop Bilbo at the door, and assigned Senator Ferguson of Michigan,

to do the stopping. He was to introduce a Resolution that Bilbo be made to step aside until Monday. That would give the Senate time to swear in the new senators, and hear the presidential message to Congress on Monday -- then take up the case of Bilbo, whether or not to admit him to the Senate.

Today the swearing in began -- alphabetically. First on the list was Baldwin of Connecticut, who had no opposition, and he quickly took the oath.

Bilbo was next, and now it was time for Senator Ferguson to introduce his resolution -- stop Bilbo.

But he could n't do it -- there was a surprise.

Democratic Senator Taylor of Idaho got there first -- with a resolution of his own -- a resolution to stop Bilbo.

Senator Taylor is one of the Democrats opposed to his fellow Democrat from Mississippi, and he beat the Republicans to the gun. *And then there*

*2*  
~~There~~ was a wrangle between Taylor and Ferguson,

but Taylor was recognized by the secretary of the senate Leslie Biffle, a Democrat. So Taylor had the play, and got in his Democratic stop-Bilbo resolution. Out in Idaho he is known as the singing cowboy, and he never sang a cowboy song with more effect than he sang a political song today -- getting in ahead of the Republicans.

A sour comment on this was expressed by Senator Bilbo himself. Pudgy and truculent, he was glowering at the proceedings against himself, and now he remarked: "The biggest joke of the eightieth Congress is that a ninecompoop cowboy stole the whole Republican show."

So the Republicans were second in getting in their stop-Bilbo resolution. The oratory was in full blast now, an uproar. Senator Taylor made an eloquent plea against Bilbo after which the southern Democrats moved in.

Overton of Louisiana, offered a substitute



resolution. His proposal was that Bilbo be allowed to take the oath right away, and occupy a seat in the senate while his case is being investigated. Senators of the southern states are supporting Bilbo, and Overton of Louisiana is one of their leaders. He put up an argument in favor of his pro-Bilbo resolution, but there was prolonged wrangling.

Up spoke Republican Leader Senator Taft of Ohio. He offered a motion to table both resolutions. The strategy of that lay in the fact that the tabling of both would enable the Senate to go on and swear in the other new senators. The Taft motion was carried thirty-eight to twenty. Twenty-eight Republicans and ten Democrats voted in favor, twenty Democrats against -- no Republicans against.

The success of the Taft maneuver permitted the Republicans to move that the next senator on the list be sworn in -- Brewster of Maine, a Republican.



m But Senator Overton made another quick maneuver. He moved to substitute the name of Bilbo for Brewster, and go ahead with the swearing in. Democratic Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, supported that, and started some long oratory.

The tactics of the southern Democrats were -- talk and delay. That was vividly evident, when Thomas of Oklahoma demanded <sup>the reading of</sup> ~~that the clerk read~~ a report made by a committee that investigated the Bilbo case. It was a twenty-three page report, which would have taken up plenty of time. The Oklahoma senator, in addition, moved for a quorum call -- another kind of delay.

It all spells one long and familiar congressional word -- filibuster. There had been threats of a southern filibuster against the ousting of Bilbo, and that threat was amply borne out today -- with the southerners launching a full scale attempt to talk the Bilbo ouster to death.

Congress--6

As the session ended today, Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, was reading that twenty-three page report. Tomorrow there'll be another session, and Ellender of Louisiana says he has a lot of things to say, which will take him about five hours. Other southerners make similar promises of prolonged oratory. The results ~~so far~~ *today* utter confusion. ~~the organization of the new~~ →  
~~Republican senate tied up in a snarl of Dilbo and~~  
~~filibusters.~~

~~(Note to Editors: On the previous page, change the phrase "Senator Thomas demanded that the clerk read a report" and make it read: "Senator Thomas demanded the reading of a report made by committee, etc.")~~

Add Congress--1

~~So all this palaver, and~~ Finally the gavel went down late this evening, ending the first day of the new and <sup>soon-to-be</sup> ~~supposedly~~ Republican-controlled senate. But ~~it seems to be out of control for the present,~~ <sup>held up by</sup> ~~there was no control,~~ and the eightieth Congress hasn't come into being yet, -- ~~how could it, with the~~ delaying tactics, parliamentary maneuvers, resolutions for and against the seating of Bilbo, attempts to swear in new members and threats of gag rule if southern Democrats attempt to filibuster.

The ~~22~~ men who have been elected and who hope to compose the eightieth Senate will meet again at noon tomorrow with deadlock prevailing and sure only of this much: that Bilbo will not be allowed to take the oath of office; that the Republicans will still be unable to organize the chamber, and that southern democrats will refuse to yield ground in their "seat Bilbo" campaign.

After today's trying session, Republican leader



Add Congress--2

Taft, obviously anticipating a filibuster, had this to say: "It is not a good time to start a filibuster, and it is not a good time to try to break one. But the only thing to do, in my opinion, is to break the filibuster starting Monday."

And finally, the last word from the Bilbo camp, from Bilbo's champion, Ellender of Louisiana. Says Ellender: "The fight to seat Bilbo will go on indefinitely. If necessary it will block all future senatorial seatings."

Replying to Taft's gag threat, Ellender adds: "They have the votes. If that's the way they want to trample on minority rights, let them go to it."

That must have been a galling admission for a Democratic senator to have to make -- that the Republicans, in the Senate, have the votes. ~~once more~~ It must be hard for Senator Ellender to believe it, after sixteen long years in the saddle. The ins now out.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES--1

( In the Lower House of Congress, things went smoothly and easily today. The Republican majority took control of the ordinary routine of electing a speaker of the House. As had been forecast all along, the new speaker is Congressman Joe Martih of Massachusetts. )

To  
He succeeds the former Democratic speaker, Congressman Sam Rayburn of Texas, who today turned over his gavel to the congressman from Massachusetts.

One bill was immediately entered. And the subject was -- tax cut. This, too, was in line with what the Republicans have been saying right along -- income taxes to be reduced. Congressman Knutson of Minnesota introduced the bill -- which provides for a twenty percent reduction of personal taxes on all incomes below three hundred thousand dollars a year.

For incomes above three hundred thousand, a tax cut of ten and a half percent is proposed. This cut in the topmost bracket would affect about sixty people --

House of Representatives-2

that many in this country having incomes of more than three hundred thousand dollars a year.

The reduction proposed today would diminish the national income by about three and a half billion dollars a year, but the republicans argue that the boost given to business by the slashes will more than make up for that loss to the federal government. And the Republicans expect to save billions by cutting government expenses.

Today the new speaker, Congressman Joe Martin, told the House of Representatives: "We must, after sixteen long years, balance the budget, commence paying off the national debt, reduce taxes to free the money of the individual for achieving a higher national standard of living."



Gandhi--1

(In eastern India, eastern Bengal, one of the strangest dramas of our time was being played today. Through the villages of Hindus and Moslems, trudged ~~and~~ aged, frail figure, ~~with the bald head~~ <sup>of and</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>^</sup> toothless.) mouth. Wrapped in a kind of white bedsheet, the humblest Hindu garment, ~~he is~~ <sup>A man who is</sup> a world familiar figure, Mahatma Gandhi. Seventy-seven now, feeble and ailing. But Gandhi is on what he calls -- "the greatest experiment of my life." (He's on a mission to preach brotherhood in the villages of eastern Bengal; where Hindus and Moslems have been slaughtering each other in savage outbreaks of religious fanaticism.)

We all know that the problem of India and its independence ~~is~~ <sup>seems</sup> almost insoluble, <sup>largely</sup> because of the bitter ~~age~~ <sup>age</sup>.

<sup>old</sup> feud between Moslem and Hindu. Nobody knows that better than Gandhi, long time leader of Indian nationalism, the sage and saint of the Hindus, <sup>who</sup> ~~is~~ has dedicated the remainder of his life to an effort to ameliorate the fanatical hatred that threatens to tear India apart.

~~India apart.~~

Recently, when the Hindu-Moslem riots in eastern Bengal were at their worst, Gandhi went on a fast--~~and~~ announcing that he would take no food until the human violations had ceased. Now, the savagry has quieted somewhat, and he has abandoned his fast <sup>and is</sup> ~~the~~ undertaking

~~this~~ ~~a~~ ~~mission of brotherhood.~~ ~~He has gone to the scene in~~  
<sup>gone right into</sup> eastern Bengal, where the hatred is most ferocious. <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~

there he is appealing to both Hindus and Moslems with the ~~a~~  
gospel of charity <sup>and</sup> ~~mercy~~.

When he departed on his mission, Gandhi said:

"If need be, I will leave my bones in east Bengal. For, if I fail in east Bengal, I will not succeed anywhere else."

According to reports from India, he has a good chance of leaving his bones in east Bengal. He is seventy-seven, still weak from the prolonged fast, and he is ailing with some kind of malady of the skin and an intestinal illness. ~~Trudging along with him is his~~

personal physician, a woman, who presumably will call a halt to the mission, when she sees Gandhi failing physically. That is, if he will allow her to call a halt.

For is the mission without peril from fanatics among the Moslems. <sup>Most</sup> The Mohammedans at large are said to respect <sup>Gandhi as</sup> a holy man, whom the Hindus revere as a saint. But the Indian government, apprehensive of

possible trouble, has sent some Gurkha soldiers along for protection. <sup>The Gurkhas have</sup> They have been ordered to trail along after Gandhi, just in case. Gandhi seems to think the Gurkhas amusing. <sup>He is</sup> a saint with a sense of humor.

Today the Mahatma, trudging down a road in east Bengal, approached a Moslem village. A mohammedan priest came out to meet him, and Gandhi greeted him with a joke. He pointed to the Gurkha soldiers trailing along behind, and said with a smile -- or rather a toothless grin: "I have brought soldiers along with me. If you kill me, they will kill you."



The Moslem priest broke into a laugh: "Why should we want to kill you?" He asked. "We're delighted to have you in our midst."

~~Whereupon the Moslem priest gave Gandhi some oranges, which the Hindu holyman distributed among some Moslem children -- who were staring at him. He talked to them for a few minutes -- like a Hindu holy man preaching to Moslem children.~~

~~All of which would seem to indicate that Gandhi may not be meeting with a hardening of hearts among the Moslems, who have been slaughtering Hindus in the fierce religious riots.~~

~~Further along the line,~~ *As* the Mahatma trudged *on a day* his way, some Hindu women came to him from the village of Chandpur. They bent down before him, touched his feet, and received his blessing. At another stop, Gandhi accepted a glass of orange juice from the hands *in Every (He is)* of an untouchable, *though* an orthodox Hindu of mystic *intensity*

~~intensity.~~

Ghandhi--5

Gandhi is not one to spurn the outcast, the pariah, the untouchable-- whose very shadow is not allowed to touch the lordly brahmin.

~~And so all day he went on, trudging on foot among~~  
~~Hindus and Moslems, going to their villages and imploring~~  
~~them to be charitable, merciful.~~ At last reports Gandhi was approaching the district of Noakhali, where the rage of the Moslems against the Hindus is the most deadly. He is about to venture among the angriest fanatics of all, whom he calls -- "our Moslem brothers and sisters."

A companion with Gandhi on this mission is a socialist leader of the national congress party, Dr. Ram Monchar. Today, to an American newspaperman, the socialist leader described the mahatma's mission in the following words: "It is in the nature of a great drama, the echoes of which will be heard for many generations to come."

FOLLOW LONDON--1

Even with all that fog in London today, a gleam of red could be seen -- the red faces at Claridge's, *a* ~~That~~ hotel represents London ~~at~~ its most fashionable, ~~with all sorts of swank and aristocratic tone. So when~~ ~~faces get red at Claridges, they glow with a deep rich~~ ~~crimson.~~

The embarrassment ~~is~~ because of the Maharajah of Peshawar, who had a table on New Year's eve at Claridges. The Maharajah made the reservation at the last moment -- a thing almost impossible. London's most fashionable hostelry was booked solid for New Year, ~~and -- to get a table at the last hour, you had to be~~ ~~almost a member of the royal family -- or a glittering~~ ~~potentate of India.~~ *But* <sup>^</sup> The Maharajah of Peshawar, wearing a gleaming turban was received with all due ceremony, Claridges plumes itself on knowing how to greet eastern royalty. ~~All of which made the faces bloom with a deeper~~ ~~glow of red today.~~ Yet, how was the hotel staff at



FOLLOW LONDON--2

Claridges to know that there was no such thing as a  
Maharajah of Peshawar? There's the Nizam of Hyderabad,  
the Maharajah of Patiala, the Akound of Swat, the  
*the Begum of Bopal, the Mahal of Udaipur,*  
Aga Khan, the Sultan of Mysore, But there ~~is~~ no ~~maharajah~~  
of Peshawar. *Many* ~~I suppose that some~~ Britishers *well* ~~may say~~ that  
Claridges ~~might~~ *should* have known it -- but Claridges didn't.

The awful truth came out today. The Maharajah  
of Peshawar was a British army officer who had tried  
repeatedly to reserve a table at Claridges for New Year's  
eve -- but had failed, had been turned down. ~~He hadn't~~  
~~enough rank, was a mere major or something, and the answer~~  
~~was -- not~~ This miffed him so much that he decided to  
try something spectacular.

He phoned Claridges, said he was the secretary to  
the maharajah of Peshawar, and demanded a table, ~~for four,~~  
the best location, New Year's eve. The answer was deferential  
-- very well sir." Claridges knew its maharajah --  
or rather didn't. So that mere major or something was the  
potentate who arrived and was ushered to a choice table

with all the ceremony due an oriental sovereign.

The red faces at Claridge deepened to a blushing scarlet today when it was disclosed that ~~xxxxxxx~~ even the maharajah's glittering turban was phoney. That cheely British major made ~~it~~ of his mother's fancy beadspread.

And speaking of home and mother -- that brings us to you, Nelson.

*Taken from Early Broadcast Jan 3, 1957 V. 11*

LONDON

London had another of those <sup>deep</sup> ~~terrible~~ fogs today

-- and there was an element of fright in the <sup>2</sup> pea-souper

<sup>as it</sup> ~~which~~ closed down upon the <sup>world's largest city</sup> ~~city~~. ~~It is having a nasty~~

~~winter, and a week ago we heard of a champion of London~~

~~and~~ fogs. That previous one was matched today when another

~~shroud of pea-soup mist covered the city on the Thames,~~

~~which is the world's capital of fog.~~

~~This one brought a disaster, a railroad collision.~~

On the outskirts of London, a mail express running in the  
sightless blanket of white mist, crashed into a passenger  
train -- five lives lost, forty-seven persons injured.

And then the work of rescue was like a nightmare -- a  
nightmare of fog.

Police guards hurrying to the scene of the wreck  
had to stop -- they could n't see where they were going.  
Policemen had to get out and walk, using flashlights to  
follow the curb and pick out their way.

At the scene of the wreck they <sup>even</sup> ~~had~~ had to feel their  
way, to find the injured. ~~They~~ →



*They*  
^rigged up powerful searchlights, but the glowing beams of these failed to penetrate the fog. Ambulances taking the injured to hospitals had to creep along.

Then suddenly the fog lifted. A London pea-souper has a way of doing that -- clearing up in a mere few minutes, everything turning bright. The lifting of the fog enabled the rescue work to be completed promptly and efficiently.

~~The new brightness of day disclosed a nightmare of letters and packages. A mail train, having been smashed up in the wreck, a whole area was strewn with holiday mail -- and, at last reports, squads of postal clerks were out picking up letters and packages.~~