

L.T. - K., THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1954.
(San Francisco)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Senate was drowning itself in an ocean of words, today, in a Fillibuster. And one of the longest on record. Debate starting, yesterday, at 10 am. Continuing - all day, and on through the night. Morning came, and there was no sigh of halt. The talkathon -- in full progress, as the hours wore on today.

Subject -- the Eisenhower atomic program. A bill -- to encourage the participation of industry in atomic development. Also calling for a more liberal sharing of atomic information with our Allies. So, what is the trouble? Why the fillibuster?

Well, it's a question of the use of privately produced electrical power by our atomic plants. The Administration's bill would authorize the Atomic Energy

Commission to purchase electrical power from private companies.

There is a faction in the Senate opposed to this -- a minority. They can't beat that proviso with votes, as was shown last night. After long hours of speech making, the question came to a vote, and the opposition was defeated. The Senate -- okayed the section pertaining to private power.

But the minority refused to abide by that, and turned the whole thing into a fillibuster against the atomic bill in general. That is, they started talking - to keep the bill from coming to a vote.

The longest-winded of the Fillibusters -- Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who started out last night, and orated for five solid hours. In a way, you might call it -- flowers of eloquence. The Senator wore a red rose in his lapel, and said he would keep on talking

until the rose wilted. Well, he never did have a wilted rose in his coat lapel, because he kept getting fresh red roses -- which were passed along to him. One -- by his daughter. Oh yes, flowers of eloquence.

Senator Morse declared frankly, that it was a -- fillibuster. When he finally sat down, he passed the buck along to one of the group of Democrats who from the die-hard opposition. It then was one orator after another -- with Morse in the background. He said his original talkathon was only a preliminary. He was just getting warmed up. Ready to resume -- in case his fellow-fillibusters weakened.

Don't think, however, that the Senate got no sleep -- in that session, day and night. Some just went home, and got their eight hours. Others stretched out in cloak rooms - snoozing and snoring.

Republican leaders were stubborn, too. Senator Knowland of California announced -- he would keep the Senate in session around-the-clock, until the long winded orators were worn out.

Knowland made moves to clamp on a gag rule -- a motion for cloture. He got enough signatures on a petition -- necessary for a gag which would enable him to call a vote to put a stop to the fillibuster. Two-thirds of the majority -- necessary for that.

Follow SENATE

The fillibuster, we hear, puts an end to the hope of a Congressional adjournment by July 31. The legislators had hoped to go home by then -- and so some campaigning for the Congressional election in November. But the delay caused by the fillibuster makes it look like the Senate will have to stay on.

The Administrations's farm bill is involved in the tangle. The situation being such -- that the debate on the Eisenhower farm bill will have to be put off until after July 27th. ¶

The oratorical rebellion against the atomic bill causes various complications. This is the atomic era, and now -- the atomic fillibuster.

This is to follow immediately after SENATE:

In the midst of all the fillibustering, the Senate managed to vote an amendment to the atomic energy bill. An amendment -- which would permit government atomic plants to produce electric power. Administration forces were against this. Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa declared the proviso would -- "Make the government a commercial power producer." Nevertheless -- the amendment was adopted by a close vote -- 45 to 41.

INDO-CHINA:

In Paris, today, the French cabinet voted unanimously -- in approval of the armistice negotiated by Premier Mendes-France. Returning from Geneva, the Premier, gave his fellow ministers a verbal report ~~xxx~~ that lasted for two hours and fifteen minutes. Nobody -- disagreed. After which -- Mendes-France made an appearance before the National Assembly, repeating his report.

He was received like a popular hero today. At the airport -- greeted by 200 officials and newsmen. The public -- not let in. The Premier had requested this, wanting to minimize popular acclaim. Perhaps he doesn't see so much reason for it. But, as he drove through the streets -- crowds gathered to hail Mendes-France and his achievement at Geneva. That achievement may look a bit like a surrender of sorts, but the French people simply wanted an end of the bitter futile war in

Indo-China.

In the light of history, it seems odd for France to hail what amounts to a defeat. Shades of Napoleon! But times do change, and France is not in a mood to worship military glory as in the days of old.

In Moscow today, Pravda, called the Indo-Chinese armistice -- a victory for the Communist powers. The official newspaper of the Russian Communist party summarized the whole thing as a defeat for the foreign policy of the United States. Pravda may be right, for once.

However, there may be a gleam of the proverbial silver lining in the black cloud. The word in Washington is that there is a sudden change in the prospects for an alliance of the free countries -- to check Red aggression in Southeast Asia. Great Britain and the United States -- in a quick agreement. Britain -- coming

around to the American view. In Washington, an informed source declares: "A course of action has been agreed on within the last forty-eight hours." All -- as the result of the Indo-Chinese armistice.

The reason behind this is a realization of a sharp decrease of western prestige in Asia. With the peoples out there feeling -- that the Communists are on top. No defense against them. So the idea is to counter-act that loss of western prestige -- by quickly forming a system of defense for Southeastern Asia. To give the people out there the feeling -- that a wall of protection is being built.

Hence the statement in Washington - that the prospects of a defense treaty look better than ever. One report is that a conference on Southeast Asia may be held as early as next month.

BERLIN KIDNAP:

Berlin reports what seems to be -- a sensational abduction by the Reds. The victim -- Otto John, chief of a West German agency dealing with subversive elements. Otto John -- a top ranking official in the anti-Communist activities of the West German government.

He disappeared on Tuesday, day before yesterday, and now a secret message has come from East Berlin. An anti-Communist agent reporting -- "Otto John is in East Berlin."

An investigation discloses the following:

Tuesday evening the anti-Communist official left his hotel in West Berlin, and took a taxi cab. Not only has Otto John vanished, but the cab is also missing. Which leads to the belief that the taxi driver was a Red agent -- taking part in the abduction.

There have been other cases of similar abductions, and this appears to be a climax -- the kidnapping of a top official of the West German government.

EXPLOSION:

A New Jersey town was shaken by a violent explosion today. Two killed, a number of people -- injured. The blast occurred at Hightstown near Princeton. The plant of a fireworks company blowing up. It wasn't an explosion of fireworks. It was defective ammunition. The company says it has been operating, for the last several years, under a Government contract. And -- wouldn't say what they were making, what it was that blew up.

FOREST FIRES:

I'm in San Francisco tonight, and the California story still is -- forest fires. San Francisco actually didn't have much of the heat wave that afflicted other parts of California. The city on the Golden Gate rarely has flaming hot weather.

Further inland, however, the heat wave did its work -- drying out forest and brush lands. And big fires have been raging. The one we heard about yesterday, still -- out of control. Flames raging through the Tahoe National Forest.

But the real focus of interest is at Redding - and beyond - up near the Oregon border. There the authorities now suspect -- incendiarism. Fire bugs at work -- according to State Ranger Jesse Graves, who points to a pattern.

More than fifteen fires broke out, about the same time -- in a semi-circle around Redding. Eleven thousand

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acres -- burned out. Homes destroyed -- as many as fifteen. Not counting -- barns and other structures. The flames were fanned by winds up to thirty miles an hour -- and one of the worst of the fires raged near the municipal airport near Redding.

It's the pattern that raises the suspicion -- fires breaking out in a semi-circle around the town. Although -- why anybody should want to set fires like that is difficult to imagine. However, that wierd creature, the fire bug, is likely to do uncomprehensible things.

POLICEMAN:

Sacramento, the handsome capital of California, has -- a champion cop. Patrolman Joseph Harrington certainly must have set a record -- for making arrests. In the course of one night, on his beat, he locked up 108 individuals, who were paraded in court today. One long procession of arrests -- made by Officer Harrington, in one night. Charges varied from vagrancy -- to drunk and disorderly.

Officer Harrington's beat must be in quite a neighborhood. I didn't know they had such a neighborhood in stately Sacramento. He told the judge, today, that he didn't have any special order for a neighborhood clean-up -- there were just so many loafers and drunks around.

The judge had quite a time -- imposing sentences on some, dismissing charges against others. All -- the result of a night's work by a champion cop.

SAN FRANCISCO:

You might mistake this next bit of news for a vaudeville skit, but it happened -- in a San Francisco court of law. Abraham Booker was up before the judge, on a charge of drunkenness. The cop said he made the arrest because Abraham was weaving along, this way and that, zig zagging all over the place.

Abraham told the judge, he was dodging automobiles!

Whereupon His Honor asked:

"What were you doing out in the street?"

"I wasn't in the street, Abraham replied. "I was on the sidewalk."

"Then, demanded the astonished judge, "what were the automobiles doing on the sidewalk?"

"Ah! replied Abraham, "that was the mystery."

Too much of a mystery for the judge, who said:

"Thirty days."

NEWSPAPER:

In the world of newspapers, odd things can happen-- in the case of headlines. The Knoxville, The Tennessee Journal printed one yesterday which today drew an indignant protest.

The headline announced the collapse of a baseball league, which ran into financial difficulties in those Tennessee parts. Called -- the Mountain States League. So the headline in the Knoxville Journal read like this:

"M S LOOP REACHES TRAIL'S END, FOLDS."

Which is true enough -- that ball-playing loop having folded.

Now here is the protest, as follows:

"Mr. M.S. Loop says he wants his friends to know that he has not reached the end of the trail, and shows signs of folding."

The M S Loop and Mr. M.S. Loop -- producing confusion.

Now let's loop the loop to Mike!