

CONGRESS

The eighty-ninth Congress opened today on a note of change and challenge - with the accent on change. First, House Republicans voted out Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, House Minority leader for the past six years. Halleck lost his post to the younger challenger from Michigan, Representative Gerald A. Ford. Ford's winning margin: six votes.

Next, Senate Democrats elected Russell B. Long of Louisiana Senate Whip. Senator Long, a Southern Liberal - although he voted against the 1964 Civil Rights Bill - thus succeeds Vice-President-elect Hubert Humphrey.

Later, in the House, the heavy Democratic majority pushed through a significant rules change that could spell speedy passage of President Johnson's program for a "great society."

Key provision in the rules change provides that the House, by a simple majority vote, can call up for action any bill held for 21 days or longer in the heretofore all-important

Rules Committee.

There was a general feeling of optimism in the
 opening session of Congress. The year 1961 was
 expected to be a year of progress and reform.
 The Kennedy family, including John F. Kennedy,
 was seen as a new force in the White House.
 The Kennedy family had a long history of public
 service. John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic
 president of the United States. His administration
 was expected to bring about a new era of
 leadership and progress. The Kennedy family
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BROTHERS

Quite apart from the general political ~~scene~~^{STIR,}, there was ~~another~~^A moment of intense drama in today's opening session of Congress. That came early this afternoon when two men - strikingly similar in appearance - walked down the center aisle of the Senate together. They were Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy of Massachusetts and Robert F. Kennedy of New York.

Ted Kennedy moved cautiously, his back still encased in a heavy brace - the result of that airplane crash six months ago. But he made it without ~~any~~ help - to the delight of at least thirteen members of the Kennedy clan in the Senate gallery. And the brothers were then sworn in as Senators from their respective states.

The Kennedys thus become the first team of brothers to serve together in the Senate since 1803.

Lowell Thomas tells us tonight of meeting an old friend

---- Lowell.....

U THANT

HELLO DICK, AND OF COURSE GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

As we were about to take off for Europe, and Africa, my wife and I ran into U N Secretary General U Thant. It was in the Clipper Club in New York at the airport. We were all waiting to take off. U Thant about to leave for Puerto Rico for a much deserved holiday in the sun. Dr. Ralph Bunche, with him. And, U Thant rather startled me by saying -- his remark was -- here are approximately his words - "I recall you, Lowell Thomas when you were in my country some ten years ago." And when I replied -- yes - in fact, it was one of my favorite countries, and then I added that in 1920 I had a river steamer on the Irrawady and then went on to say that was almost before you were born, and he laughed and replied - "Well when you had your river steamer that was plying the Irrawady from Rangoon to Mandalay - and on up to Bhamo, I was ten years old." And that does make me out to be something of a patriarch, I guess. I hope not though. Dr. Ralph Bunche was seeing U thant off, and he said that the Secretary General of the U N has been having trouble with an ulcer, as you perhaps have heard - an ulcer that was brought on by troubles brought to the U N by the Russians, their failure to pay their part of the expense of running the U N. And

then Dr. Bunche added that U Thant is feeling much better - because there are now signs that the Russians are actually going to come through - that is, do it in some way or other.

This time we flew right over Cape Cod, before leaving the coast of North America. A cold bright clear day, strong wind, and for the first time I became aware of just why Cape Cod is so famous. Its lagoons, inlets, and beaches - they are really much more spectacular than I had realized. A member of our air crew, with three gold stripes on his sleeve, came back and leaned over and said - "Remember me, I'm one of your neighbors on Quaker Hill up in Dutchess County in New York. And that's the kind of world that we live in now. Start for Africa and at thirty-seven thousand feet above the Atlantic, you find yourself being flown by one of your own neighbors.

Solong,

VET NAM

In blood-soaked Viet Nam, the village of Binh Gia was the scene of still another stunning government defeat today. The Viet Cong guerillas making a slashing attack on a South Vietnamese armored column - killing at least twelve men in the government force - one a U.S. military adviser. Scores more were wounded. And besides destroying several vehicles, the Communists escaped with large quantities of weapons - mainly machine guns - badly needed in their continuing war of terror.

MALAYSIA

The British moved to accelerate their arms build-up in Malaysia today, amid mounting fears of a new military offensive by neighboring Indonesia.

With a strike-force of British paratroopers already en route to Malaysia, the aircraft carrier Eagle was also ordered to Singapore. The Eagle, docked for repair work at the East African port of Mombasa, was ordered to set sail immediately - without waiting for completion of the repairs.

In London, the British Foreign Office further reported that the airlift of British paratroopers would continue through the rest of the week. And a Naval Minister added that "if more naval reinforcements are needed, they will go, too."

T. S. Eliot is dead. The American born poet

and playwright who lived most of his life and did most of his work in England - died in London tonight. He was 76. --- His poem, the Waste

Land, expressed the disillusionment of the Lost Generation after World War I -- with its lines "This is the way the world ends - not

with a bang, but a whimper." T S Eliot wrote *Waste Land*, *The Cathedral*

and *The Cocktail Party* and won the Nobel prize for literature. **SB**

It was said that he created the English poetic style of the 20th Century.

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about it, that will cost more, too. You guessed it.

Telephone rates have also gone up.

As Louis L'Amour would say -

no long until - tomorrow

HUNGARY

In the United States, motorists continually
hear this slogan: "If you drink, don't drive".
a simple matter of safety first.

But starting today, the same slogan could be
right at home in Communist Hungary. And the reason
has nothing to do with safety - it's a question of finance.

Here's why. Liquor prices in Hungary went up
twelve per cent today - the same for gasoline. And if
anyone wants to call up the government and complain
about it, that will cost more, too. You guessed it.
Telephone rates have also gone up.

As Ladd Thomas would say -
so long until tomorrow -

UNITED NATIONS FOLLOW MALAYSIA

Meanwhile, in New York, Indonesia today postponed - at least temporarily - its threatened withdrawal from the United Nations. The Indonesian delegation - which had been expected to file formal notice of its intentions to quit the world body - took no action whatsoever. The Indonesians gave no reason for the delay - except to state that they were awaiting "further instructions from Jakarta".

However, Indonesian sources indicated privately that withdrawal awaited only the drafting of an official letter, as required by the U.N. If Indonesia does withdraw from the United Nations, it will be the first nation ever to do so.

DEATH

As feared, the New Year's weekend traffic death toll in this country was the worst ever. According to latest report, at least four hundred fifty-eight persons were killed on the nation's highways between 6 p.m. Friday and midnight Sunday.

The death toll not only topped the previous record for a three-day New Year's weekend- but also surpassed the record for a four-day New Year's weekend. That was set in 1957 - when four hundred nine persons lost their lives in traffic - fifty-one fewer than this year.

The combined death toll for the latest Christmas and New Year's holiday - more than one thousand fatalities.

ALPS

From Salzburg, Austria today come reports of a series of tragic accidents in the Austrian Alps. At latest count, seven persons had been killed in avalanches in the High Mountains over the New Year's weekend.

There are few details as yet, but the dead are said to include a German Boy Scout, three Dutch students and three Austrians - latest victims of the "White Death".

The Senior Citizens met with Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico and Representative Cecil R. King of California - backers of the Medicare bill that foundered in the closing days of the 1-1st session of Congress. The two legislators have already introduced similar legislation, which President Johnson is expected to endorse fully in his health message to Congress on Thursday.