

Something Rotten In Texas

POLISH up that Lone Star, put on your best suit of Texas pride and read the latest issue of Collier's.

To deviate from the usual Texan's braggery and at the risk of losing our citizenship as a Texan, we agree one-hundred percent.

An article in the national magazine takes a thorough and uncomplimentary look at the filthy politics of Duval County and South Texas.

Tracing the history of the Parr regime in South Texas, the story dwells particularly on the Johnson-Stephenson election dispute and the cold-blooded murder of radio announcer W. H. "Bill" Mason who dared to oppose the machine.

After inheriting his iron-fisted control from his father, George Parr spread out his game of fraud and foul government until it now holds state and national influence.

Significantly mentioned in the article is the order from Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black quashing the investigation of the plainly fraudulent election of Lyndon B.

It is astonishing how little you miss the news that you do not hear about.

Protection For Freedom of Speech

JUSTICE Hugo Black, dissenting in the Monday Supreme Court ruling that upheld the conviction of top Communist leaders in the U. S., listed in his opinion the fear that the convictions watered down freedom of the speech so much that it is not likely to protect any but "safe or orthodox views."

For his concern in the matter we would like to nominate Mr. Black to either our State Department or a prominent position on the UN Assembly. Apparently he would make a good candidate.

His fears seem to match those of the national and international leaders who can't call a war by its right name and who don't dare impose any "harsh" restrictions on anyone for fear of stepping on a few toes.

Pray tell, what does Mr. Black think is included in the constitutional guarantee of free speech? Did his engrossment in the Bill of Rights cause him to overlook the fundamental statement that "all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

And that ideal is the clearest definition available of our form of democratic government—a government of, by and for the people.

We challenge any intimation that Communism could endure an instant under that doctrine.

Perhaps Justice Black would prefer that we sit by and idly watch arrogant Communist leaders lay the groundwork for destruction of the government under which they seek protection.

His attitude in the matter calls, indeed, for legitimate exercise of the practice of freedom of speech.

When you hear an individual criticized by another, you might try to find out just why the critic is incensed.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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THE WARM SEASON APPROACHES



Senate Passes Tax Bill, Will Adjourn Friday

AUSTIN, June 7—(AP)—The legislature agreed on a tax program yesterday and voted to end its session Friday at noon.

The House was first to pass the adjournment resolution. The Senate concurred during a long afternoon session.

The legislators will reconvene in an unofficial session next week to hear an address by General Douglas MacArthur.

The House held a brief afternoon session and recessed until tomorrow. The Senate killed a proposed constitutional amendment to give elective state and county officers four-year terms.

Then it began debate on a congressional redistricting bill.

The redistricting debate was temporarily shut off. Senators voted to hold a night session.

Overwhelming approval of a compromise tax-rural roads financing formula by both Houses ended

a deadlock that has kept the legislature in overtime session since May 8.

The tax plan will raise \$65,000,000 in new money, balance the budget, and provide substantial funds for building rural roads for two years. The rural road bloc considered it a victory.

The revenue bill continues omnibus tax increases adopted at the special session last year with some further raise, and adds a tax on gathering natural gas. The House was holding out for the gathering tax and for assurance of rural road support.

Other important legislation made progress.

The House accepted Senate changes in a proposed constitutional amendment boosting the ceiling on state welfare spending from \$35,000,000 to \$42,000,000 a year. That assured submission of the amendment at a special election this fall.

Controversial Bill

A controversial bill to permit the railroad commission to establish minimum field prices for natural gas was virtually killed in the Senate. The Senate refused to suspend its rules to consider the House-approved measure.

The Senate passed a House-approved bill making it illegal to maintain a place or equipment for playing policy games. It went back to the House with amendments. The bill proves penalties of \$100 to \$1,000 and jail terms from 30 to 90 days.

A bill requiring drivers involved in traffic accidents to show proof of financial responsibility, through insurance or other means, for claims up to \$15,000 was

passed in the Senate. It returned to the House with amendments.

The House accepted the deadlock-breaking tax compromise, 130 to 11. Senate approval was 29 to 2. The House beat down an effort to delay consideration of the joint conference committee report.

Advocates of delay said they wanted to keep the legislature in session until General MacArthur speaks June 13. Other members objected to the expense, and noted that a resolution has been passed providing for an informal session to hear the general.

House approval of the tax plan brought cries of "let's go home," and that apparently labelled the lawmakers' mood.

The House sent to the governor eight bills revamping the state's criminal code. One makes it a felony for a person to drive while under the influence of liquor if it is a second offense. A jury could recommend a fine of \$100 to \$5,000 or ten days to two years in jail, or both, or a penitentiary sentence up to five years.

Conference Committee

Both Houses approved a conference committee report on a bill reappropriating the unexpended \$3,000,000 balance of funds allotted for soil conservation two years ago.

Three changes were made in the soil conservation act. One sets a maximum of \$700 which conservation districts can spend for new equipment without approval of the state board of control and legislative audit committee.

Repair of equipment in excess of \$200 must receive prior approval of those two agencies.

Oil Anti-Trust Suit Receives Dismissal By Federal Court

WASHINGTON, June 7—(AP)—

The government changed its mind yesterday about trying to get practically all of the multi-billion-dollar oil industry into one courtroom for a single trial on anti-trust charges.

Attorney General McGrath went into federal district court and got a dismissal of the anti-trust suit filed more than ten years ago against the American Petroleum Institute and 367 individual oil corporations.

Stripped of legal frills, his motion said simply that the case was just too big for any practical handling. He said he will proceed against various elements of the industry in smaller cases, involving fewer defendants and less complex issues.

Largest Action

The big case, brought by then Attorney General Francis Biddle in September, 1940, was the largest single anti-trust action ever started. It charged an over-all conspiracy of monopoly in the whole petroleum field, starting with the production of crude oil from the ground and ending in the sale of diverse finished products in retail outlets. The defendants include all of the major oil companies.

Before the dismissal, the 367 corporate defendants had been cut

down to 225 by dissolutions, an inactive status or divestment from the major corporations.

"... Practical Difficulties"

McGrath asserted "the practical difficulties" of a trial were too great to go ahead. His announcement disclosed that the Justice Department has been considering abandonment for a long time, on the recommendations of Assistant Attorney General H. Graham Morrison, Anti-trust chief, and several of his predecessors.

The attorney general emphasized that the program of "segment" prosecutions is already well under way and said investigations looking to further actions are going forward. Currently under inquiry are complaints by some smaller concerns that the do not have access to common carrier pipelines, that they are shut out from many retail outlets, that many refining processes are available to them only through patent pools charging excessive royalties and that supplies of crude oil are controlled by a relatively small group of companies.

The department is also studying alleged price-fixing in the industry. Separate cases already started include:

An injunction suit against Standard Oil of California and Stand-

ard Stations, Inc.; which has resulted in a Supreme Court ruling that exclusive dealing contracts between major oil companies and their service station outlets violate the Clayton Act.

An action against Sun Oil at Philadelphia, due for early trial, charging Sun with keeping competitors out of thousands of its service station outlets in 19 states.

Interpreting the News

British-US Policy Gap Now Closing

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR., Associated Press News Analyst

The gap between British and American policy regarding China seems to be closing slowly.

Without fanfare, the British have dropped their effort to secure Chinese Communist representation in the United Nations.

Since she extended diplomatic recognition to Peking, Britain has voted with Russia that the Communists should be placed in the U. N. seat now held by the Nationalists. But at Tuesday's trusteeship council meeting Sir Alan Burns countered Russia's usual motion for using the Nationalists and seating the Reds by siding with the United States.

Worn Practice

British patience with Red tactics in Korea has worn thin, he said. Not that withdrawal is intended but, he implied, as long as Red China remains an aggressor, it will get no more positive support from Britain.

The statement came at an opportune moment for Secretary Acheson, under fire for relying on agreement among U. N. members, rather than the veto which the State Department has criticized Russia for using in the matter of U. N. membership. Acheson said he could keep Peking out without it, and the British action tends to support him.

It also increases the conviction that the divergent Anglo-American views on China will not be allowed to hold up a Japanese peace treaty much longer. Britain's main worries about Japan seem to revolve around competition-revived textile production and ship-building.

In these discussions, the argument about who should sign for China, with Britain advocating Peiping's case, may have been largely a bargaining point. It would not be consistent for her to insist on Red China's participation in the Japanese deal while withdrawing insistence regarding the U. N. membership.

Suggestion Withdrawn

Already Britain had withdrawn a suggestion that Formosa be given to the Red government as the de facto ruler of China in return for a Korean peace treaty.

One of the great problems in both U. S. and British policy is trade between Japan and China on the one hand, and Hong Kong and China on the other. The U. S. has

been trying to avoid upsetting the pattern of natural Japanese trade and thus ease the burden of her own responsibility for the occupied country's economic status.

Hong Kong stands to wither without its mainland trade. The wish of the two problems is an example of what makes complete Anglo-American agreement just as difficult as it makes it essential.



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