

# Washington's Congressional Warblers Start Singing Strange Song Today

Congress is a mirror of the many images of America. Are there any cracks in it? Some, says a longtime gazer into the looking glass, who also concludes with a hope the Democratic process can provide the glue.

By ARTHUR EDSON  
AP Newsfeatures Writer  
WASHINGTON — Congress came back to work today, and anyone who hangs around it much will soon be bored, amused, excited, irritated, bored, perplexed, depressed, impressed, bored.

But who can truly love, or really hate, Congress? For Congress is the most typical of our American institutions. Here we see mirrored sometimes larger than life, our hopes, our prejudices, our selfishness, our indecisions, our pettiness, our doubts and—alas, too infrequently—the greatness of which we are capable.

Here we also see that democracy, except for times of crises, can be slow and cumbersome. Letting every man have his say sounds fine in theory; in practice it can pain the ear until it dulls the mind.

In self-defense, "unlistening" has been raised to high art in Congress.

"The Senate," Warren G. Harding conceded 45 years ago, "does not listen very attentively to anybody."

In the House the confusion is so great and the time limitations so drastic that a Demosthenes could pass unnoticed and unheard.

Keeping up with Congress is like taking a walk in the woods. It can be pleasant at any time, but it's more satisfying after you have identified the species and studied their habits, their peculiarities, their song.

We Congress watchers, for ex-

ample, always look forward to our first glimpse of Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill), and to hearing his soothing, polysyllabic song, so easy to identify, so impossible to imitate.

It was Dirksen who best described fatigue from over-politicking.

"The deeper we get into this session," he once said, "the longer the tip of my tongue gets away from my brain."

Although Dirksenian prose always has an exhilarating effect, possibly the greatest delight comes from unexpected goodies.

Here's Rep. H. R. Gross, (R-Iowa), proud to lead the penny-pinching block, discussing a United Nations proposal:

"Only last Friday I saw Mr. Stevenson in the United Nations new missions building just completed. He was ankle deep in wall-to-wall carpeting, with figurative tears running down his cheeks. The UN is broke, he said, and must have millions of dollars.

"I never saw a man stand any deeper in wall-to-wall carpeting, pleading poverty, that did Adlai Stevenson."

Or Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt), with his gentle sense of humor: "Would it not be a good way to settle the problem to permit the bill to go to the White House and let the President veto it? He really has not vetoed a worthwhile bill this year—or even a very bad one."

Congress is most typically American—or maybe typically human—in its stubborn refusal to break its bad habits and lead a better life.

As the legislators come back to town, let's look at a few reforms they should, but undoubtedly won't make:

COMMITTEES—the investigative committees grab all the

headlines, but they play a minor role in congressional life.

Committees are what bills are referred to. Here legislative proposals are nurtured, beefed up, killed or, sometimes, left to die unmentioned.

No question about it: Committee work is the key to Congress. But the suspicion grows that the key has become larger than the lock.

In the House, a bill reported out by a committee is often considered so sacrosanct that little or no tampering is allowed on the floor. It will be voted up or down about as it is.

In the Senate, committees and subcommittees have grown like brambles. Sen. Dirksen counted up one day and found he was 19. Committees are important, but they should support, not overwhelm, Congress.

SENATE DEBATE—Senators drool on about how they have the world's greatest deliberative body. But even their most avid fans, of whom I am one, find it misleading advertising.

With a few exceptions, any senator can take the floor and talk on any subject as long as he wishes. Frequently as the Senate is settling down to meaningful debate a statesman gets the floor and begins to speak on completely irrelevant subjects—and off they go, braying after a new scent.

Too often this problem is presented as South vs. North, with the South worried lest any rules modification lead to more civil rights legislation. Yet the issue is much broader. Every section has used the Senate rules to its advantage.

These questions remain: Can the Senate, now grown to 100 members, continue to allow talk unlimited as the nation's business becomes increasingly complex?

And wouldn't there be more deliberation, not less, if senators were kept at least somewhere near the subject under discussion?

HOUSE DEBATE—Here the problem is precisely the opposite. House rules have so shackled talk that any discussion of a bill becomes a series of five-minute speeches.

These are designed not to influence colleagues but to show the voters back home that their congressmen are fighting nobly.

Whether the House depends too much on its committees, or whether it too severely limits its time can be argued endlessly.

But anyone who visits the House soon reaches this conclusion: The quality of its debate is so uniformly poor something should be done to improve it.

Improvements come slowly if at all. We can but hope.



"Would you like to borrow a sheet of paper to take your notes on?"

## — Wee Aggies —

Twins were born to the following parents:

Twins girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Don Bell of C-5-N College View, on Jan. 6.

Twins, a boy and a girl, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harvin

Jones of Rt. 4, Box 185A, on Jan. 8.

Girls were born to the following parents:

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Horton, 717 Broadmoor, on Jan. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alan Jeffries,

## YDs Say 'This We Believe'

Editor,

The Battalion:

For the benefit of those students who have asked for the Young Democrats Club to state their beliefs in The Battalion, we would like to submit the following:

1. The Young Democrats are dedicated to the principle that good government necessitates depth in political education directed toward responsible political action.

2. We are dedicated to the belief that under the American Constitution, the human individual has a unique dignity that merits him equal rights, opportunities and considerations regardless of his race, color or religion, and we hold that the safeguard of these benefits is the proper function of the government.

3. We believe that the Consti-

tution was not intended by our founding fathers to be a static document; but rather they intended it to be flexible enough to meet the needs and crises in any given era.

4. We do not understand the Federal government to be a foreign power which imposes a threat to our freedom. Rather, we view a representative central government as being a means by which the people of a nation can express their concern for the indigent, the unemployed, the aged, those who do not have adequate educational opportunities and those who have suffered misfortune with which they cannot individually cope.

5. We further believe that a country which has vast surpluses of resources is morally obligated to share its wealth with those in other parts of the world who face starvation and deprivation.

The Texas A&M Young Democrats Club

B-2-A Hensel, on Jan. 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lynn Springer, C-9-A College View, on Jan. 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wythe, 1213 Marsteller, on Jan. 9.

Mr. and Mrs. William Chester Rannels, 501 Dogwood, on Dec. 28.

Boys were born to the following parents:

Mr. and Mrs. Jimenez T. Mercado, A-6-C College View, on Jan. 1.

Mrs. and Mrs. Paul Russell

Timmons, 501A Milam, on Jan. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. William Day, C-12-W College View, on Jan. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Wilson, 805 Hawthorne, on Jan. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lee Putnam, D-4-A College View, on Jan. 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Orthie Neathery, V-3-D Hensel, on Jan. 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nobles, C-12-B College View, on Jan. 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo Vombrans, C-13-N College View, on Dec. 26.

# Girl Watcher's Guide

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## LESSON 6- Who may watch

Any male is eligible to become a girl watcher. There is no age limit, although most girl watchers are over ten and under one hundred and four. There are no height or weight requirements, although taller men enjoy an obvious advantage at crowded parties. The only strict requirement is one of character. The girl watcher is a man of

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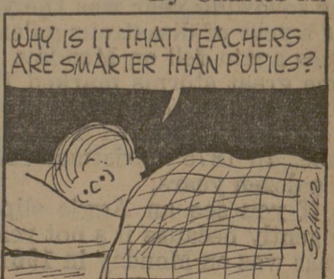
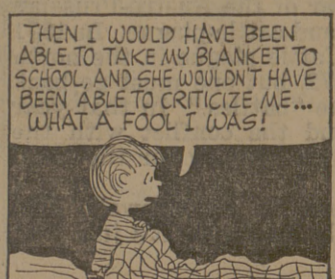
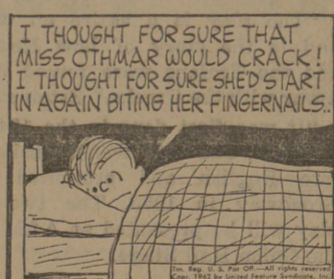
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## PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

WATCH JANUARY 17th ISSUE OF THE BATT FOR THE VARIETY OF BIBLE COURSES (ACCREDITED COURSES) FOR TEXAS AGGIES

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