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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

A Bulletin of Legislative News

Issued by

The Independent Citizens Committee
of the Arts, Sciences and Professions

New York
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May 3, 1946

THE PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM IS STALLED

The congressional coalition of reactionary Southern Democrats and Republicans has almost stalemated the administration program for re-conversion, for a better America, for a peaceful world. Clever parliamentary tactics have been the weapons of reaction. Among these weapons the filibuster, the "loaded" committee hearing, and murder by amendment have been the most effective. This is how they've been used.

FILIBUSTER

BRITISH LOAN

Despite the imperative need for Congressional action on much important legislation, Sen. Bilbo (D, Miss.) on April 24 told the Senate: "So after ten minutes Senators will know what I am going to say for the remainder of the week, because I shall spend the rest of the time in elaboration of the points which I recite in the beginning." Sen. Bilbo was threatening a filibuster against the British Loan (S Joint Res 138). The British Loan has limped along in the Senate since April 17. There is no open filibustering, merely every kind of delaying tactics. It is not likely to be voted on before May 10.

ANTI-POLL TAX

Because of a "silent" filibuster of poll taxers, the Anti-Poll Tax Bill (HR 7), still has not been placed on the Senate calendar. Eight years of determined effort to enfranchise large sections of the South have brought HR 7 through the House and out of the Senate Judiciary Committee three different times. The bill must not die in this session of Congress.

Action: Write Sen. Alben W. Barkley (D, Ky.), majority leader, calling for a vote on HR 7 before the summer recess. He can bring the bill on the floor. Write to your Senators asking that they insist on action on this measure and that they vote in favor of cloture to stop a filibuster against repeal of the poll tax.

FEPC

If the undemocratic filibuster tactics are defeated in the anti-poll tax fight, the Fair Employment Practices bill (S 101 and HR 2232) could be recalled to the floor of the Senate with good prospects of invoking cloture on this bill also and getting action by the favorable majority. In the house the FEPC measure is locked in the Rules Committee. Discharge Petition 4 now requires only about forty more signatures.

MINIMUM WAGE

The House Labor Committee begins consideration of minimum-wage legislation in executive session on May 6. From the Labor Committee the bill will go to the House Rules Committee, which by refusing to report progressive measures to the House for democratic action, serves the same purpose in the House as the filibuster in the Senate.

Action: Write your congressman urging early passage of the original Pepper-Hook Minimum Wage Bill without the Senate Pace Farm Parity Amendment.

ATTENTION: NEW YORK ICCASP MEMBERS

COME TO THE VETERANS PEACE CONFERENCE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, THURSDAY NIGHT, MAY 16, TO DEMAND ACTION ON PEACE, JOBS, PRICE CONTROL, DISCRIMINATION AND HOUSING.

HEAR: SENATOR CLAUDE PEPPER, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, JR., FRANK SINATRA, GENE KELLY, MARION HARGROVE, OLIVIA DE HAVILAND AND THE EX-GIS

in a

Dramatic Production Written by Jerome Chodorov and Walter Bernstein
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

LOADED HEARINGS

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT

Hearings on the Wagner-Murray-Dingell National Health Act (S 1606) will continue before the Senate Education and Labor Committee until June. The hearings are not going well. Opposition Senators Forrest C. Donnell (R, Mo.), and Allen J. Ellender (D, La.) have taken them over. The usual absence from the hearings of friendly Senate members of the committee has given opponents every chance to pad the record against the bill.

Mail coming into this committee is largely from organizations affiliated with AMA. Sen. Murray's office reports, for example, that mail from California runs almost entirely against the bill.

Action: Write Senator James E. Murray (D, Mont.), Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee in support of the bill. Ask your senators to drop in on these hearings and to urge friendly members of the committee to attend regularly.

MURDER BY AMENDMENT

PRICE CONTROL

The battle for price control goes on daily in the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. The storm of public objection to the House action has shaken but not greatly deterred those who are out to make the OPA ineffectual. Regular hearings end this week. Several government officials will testify starting May 6. The bill may be on the Senate floor by May 22. Probable strategy of OPA opponents will be to appear to bow to public sentiment by removing some of the inflationary House amendments, to run an "improved" bill through the Senate, then to attempt to restore damaging amendments in the joint conference with the House.

Action: All Congressmen and Senators must be kept aware of the importance of their votes on this measure. The joint House-Senate conference report must be approved by the House; all representatives are running for reelection this year.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

ATOMIC ENERGY

The McMahon bill for control of atomic energy (S1717), is out of committee and ready for Senate action. The Senate Atomic Energy Committee report has been printed and may be obtained by writing to your senator.

CANCER RESEARCH

Rep. Matthew M. Neely's bill (HR 4502) calling for an international congress for cancer research is in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Hearings will start on May 7 and 8. Rep. Sol Bloom (D, N.Y.) is chairman of this committee.

UNESCO

House Joint Resolution 305 provides for U.S. participation in the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It has been reported favorably to the House by the Foreign Affairs Committee. The committee report is now being printed.

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