

MAJORITY LEADER ROBINSON DEATH OF HEART DISEASE AT CLIMAX OF SENATE COURT FIGHT

Fiery Arkansan Was Hope of Administration in Judiciary
Battle; Had 24-Year Colorful Career in
Upper Legislative Chamber.

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only a minor part in the discussion, spending most of his time leaning far back in his chair, gazing at the ceiling.

Chester W. Jurney, Senate sergeant-at-arms, said tentative plans called for the body to be taken back to Little Rock on a train leaving Washington at 6 p. m. tomorrow.

President Roosevelt will attend funeral services for Senator Robinson in the Senate chamber, and Vice President John N. Garner will attend the burial services to be held in Little Rock, Ark., according to tentative plans announced by the White House.

Senator Robinson's death came while he was engaged in the major legislative battle of his long rough-and-tumble political career—the Senate floor fight for passage of President Roosevelt's compromise Supreme Court reorganization bill.

Senator Robinson's death was sudden. He was at his Senate desk yesterday engaging in parliamentary battle with opponents of the Administration program to reorganize the Federal judiciary.

In Line for Court Post

Senator Robinson, since the start of the Court fight, had been prominently mentioned as President Roosevelt's Supreme Court appointee to succeed Associate Justice Willis Van Devanter of Indiana, who resigned in June.

It was believed Senator Robinson's death would delay outcome of the judiciary battle. The Senate probably will adjourn as soon as it convenes today.

Senator Robinson's death stunned Senators and Representatives who had worked with him for years in Congress. Whether they opposed or supported him politically, his colleagues respected his political prowess and his ability as leader of the Senate Democratic majority.

"Boy Who Made Good"

Senator Robinson was a rough-and-tumble fighter of pioneer stock. The story of his rise to a position of leadership in the Democratic Party parallels the most exciting "boy-who-made-good" fiction.

Joe, as he was known to his neighbors in Little Rock, Ark., was born on the simple Robinson homestead on Aug. 26, 1872, the son of Dr. James Robinson, country doctor and Baptist minister, who drove his ox-drawn covered wagon across the hills from New York in 1844.

The Robinsons found it impossible to provide their 10 children with the luxury of an endowed education. The son who was to become leader of his party in the U. S. Senate trudged through the muddy roads to a country school and later earned enough to pay his way at the University of Arkansas, from which he was graduated in 1892. In 1895 he was admitted to the bar.

Robinson's talent for oratory first developed at college. He excelled it throughout a stormy career as a member of the General Assembly of Arkansas in 1894.

In 1903 Robinson began a 10-year service in the House of Representatives for the Sixth Arkansas district. At the end of that time he resigned to become Governor of the State. His tenure of office was brief. He had resigned his House seat to be sworn in as Governor Jan. 15, 1913. Two weeks later he was elected to the Senate, and March 10 was seated in that body. He was re-elected in 1918, 1924, 1930 and 1936.

At the Democratic national convention in San Francisco, in 1920, Senator Robinson was elected permanent chairman of the delegates to the 1924 convention in New York.

Mentioned as a "favorite son" candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1932, he indicated early that he would withdraw in favor of Governor Roosevelt of New York.

The rugged Southerner divided

his time in Washington between the Senate, the golf links and nearby fishing and game preserves. With Mrs. Robinson he frequently attended dinners, parties and other social events. He gave no quarter in a political battle, but possessed a friendly manner and warm sense of humor that won him friends among Republicans and Democrats alike.

When Democratic leaders were looking for a running mate for Alfred E. Smith in the 1928 Presidential campaign, they chose Robinson. He had gained prestige as leader of his party in the Senate and was popular in the South where religious outbursts against Smith threatened to split Democratic ranks. Loss of the election failed to disturb Robinson. He went back to the Senate and later plunged into a vigorous attack upon Smith because the latter assailed Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Robinson's job as Senate majority leader after Mr. Roosevelt's victory in 1932 was to maintain a balance between the conservative Democrats, largely from the South, and the more aggressive, more radical forces from the North and West so that New Deal legislation would have smooth sailing.

The task was not easy. Senator Robinson had to be in his seat at noon whenever Congress was in session. He had to be prepared to defend Roosevelt policies from attacks by Republicans or those members of his own party who disagreed with him. His booming voice was heard almost daily.

Astute politicians agreed that during the Hoover administration many pieces of legislation would have been defeated had it not been for Senator Robinson's co-operation. Without his aid the London Naval Treaty, which he helped to negotiate, might not have been ratified.

Senator Robinson supported his Republican colleagues in the fight over confirmation of Charles Evans Hughes as Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court and again when vigorous efforts were being made to deny a Senate seat to James J. Davis of Pennsylvania.

Champion of Wilson

The Arkansan was an aggressive champion of Woodrow Wilson, the League of Nations and the World Court. In March, 1922, Wilson wrote him to say "how deeply I value your confidence and good opinion," and to add, "I have come to feel for you a genuinely affectionate regard."

Senator Robinson and the late Will Rogers enjoyed a close friendship. Mr. Rogers frequently was a luncheon guest in Senator Robinson's Capitol office, where the fare usually consisted of fish or game which Senator Robinson had bagged on a week-end trip. When Senator Robinson received the Vice Presidential nomination at Houston, Tex., in 1928, Mr. Rogers wrote:

"Joe Robinson got the nomination with more Democrats agreeing than ever agreed on one thing in the history of the party."

A member of the Methodist Church, Senator Robinson supported prohibition measures. He was known as a dry but not an extremist. In the March, 1931, meeting of the Democratic National Committee, when Chairman John J. Raskob endeavored to make prohibition the paramount issue, Senator Robinson's massive frame shook with anger and he roared:

"You cannot write on the banner of the Democratic Party, however much you may desire to do so, the skull and crossbones emblematic of outlawry, trade, and expect the masses of the Democrats to accept your recommendation without resistance."

Senator Robinson and the late Senator Huey P. Long tangled bitterly during Long's Senate career. The two shook fists, pounded desks and several times approached fistful encounter. Whenever the word went

out that Senator Robinson and Senator Long planned a verbal battle the Senate was crowded to capacity. When it was over, Robinson told his friends he "enjoyed it."

Placed in the most powerful legislative position in the Government, Senator Robinson opened the special session of the New Deal Congress by driving the emergency banking bill through committee and Senate in seven hours on March 9, 1933.

The Arkansas legislator "toed the line" with the Administration to press through one of the most sweeping legislative programs in the history of the nation. Only once, by his vote to override the President's veto on the bonus bill which he had taken every step to defeat, did Senator Robinson swing out of line.

'Great Leader,' Arkansan's Court Bill Rival Says

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 14.—Democratic and Republican Congressmen alike eulogized Senator Robinson today on report of the death of the veteran Administration leader.

SENATOR WHEELER (D. MONT.), Senator Robinson's bitter foe in the court reorganization battle, said: "I deeply regret his passing. He was a great leader of men."

SENATOR BARKLEY (D. KY.), assistant Senate floor leader, said: "I am too shocked and grieved to say anything. It is the greatest loss Congress has ever suffered. It is a calamity beyond words."

SENATOR O'MAHONEY (D. WYO.) said: "Senator Robinson was one of the most lovable and able and loyal men I have ever known. He made a record that will stand with the greatest."

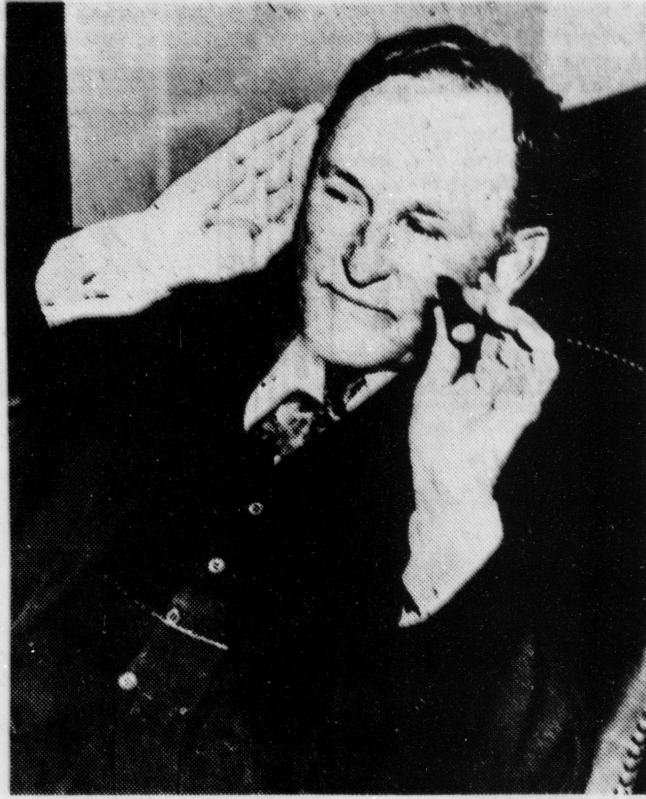
ASSISTANT ATTY. GEN. JOSEPH B. KEENAN, who worked closely with Senator Robinson throughout the fight on the judiciary bill, said:

"The President, the nation, and the party have suffered the loss of a loyal, devoted and dependable friend. Those who were accorded the privilege of intimacy with him knew of his extreme kindness and good humor. His unflinching support of his principles and his sympathy with and understanding of his colleagues endeared him beyond words. It can truly be said this man will be hard to replace."

REPUBLICAN LEADER McNARY OF OREGON, termed the majority leaders death "an irreparable loss."

"Only yesterday," Senator McNary said, "I spoke with Senator Robinson and was paired with him in a Senate vote. Our relations were intimate and always cordial. His passing must have been hastened by the great struggle he made this year for pending legislation. It is an irreparable loss to the Administration in its Court fight as well as in its general program. The country has lost a fine character and a great leader."

Death Robs Senate of Its Majority Leader



Senator Joseph T. Robinson, of Arkansas, is shown holding his first conference of the year at Washington. The Senate Majority Leader discussed matters pertaining to the opening of Congress, Jan. 5. At upper left,



Robinson takes pains to hear a question fully. In the upper right, he makes sure that he heard the question aright. Below, left, he ponders the decision, and below, right, he gives the time-worn answer: "Strictly off the record, boys, I do think it might rain tomorrow."

Wheeler Urges F. D. R. to Drop Court Reorganization Battle

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a definite effect on the court bill but leaders on both sides were reluctant to comment publicly. Some of the opposition leaders said privately that they considered the measure definitely defeated as a result of developments in the last 24 hours.

Senator Alben W. Barkley (D. Ky.), assistant floor leader, his voice shaken and his eyes red-rimmed, disclosed that arrangements were being discussed for a public funeral in the Senate. Thereafter, a delegation of congressional leaders would accompany the body to Arkansas.

Senator Royal S. Copeland (D. N. Y.), the only physician in the Senate, expressed fear for the lives of other Senators and asked that the court reorganization fight be dropped or "at least sent back to committee."

"A physician looks into the faces of his colleagues and sees death written there," Dr. Copeland said. "I wouldn't be frank with the public if I didn't say I am worried about other Senators. I hope the death of this great leader will quiet their emotions and serve as a warning to guard against further deaths."

"I feel resentful over the death of Senator Robinson. He was carrying on a fight which, from my point of view, is a fight in which I have no belief. It was too much to ask him to exert himself as he did."

The Court bill should be withdrawn or at least recommitted to the Judiciary Committee for comprehensive study.

"I went to Senator Robinson when he was speaking so vehemently on the Court issue last week. I said, 'Joe this fight isn't worth your life. If you don't calm down you'll die on this floor.'"

"He was a great warrior and died in battle obeying the commands of his leader like a good soldier."

"Doubt If I Can Last"

It was disclosed also that Senator Robinson had been concerned about his own health.

Following the resignation of Justice Willis Van Devanter from the Supreme Court when the majority leader was prominently mentioned as a possible successor, one Senator said he was discussing the matter with Mr. Robinson.

"It would round out your long career in public life admirably," the Senator said he told Robinson, "and would take financial worries from your shoulders for the rest of your days."

"As to rounding out my public life," Senator Robinson was quoted as saying, "I doubt if I can last six years in the Senate."

HEARING ON ILLEGAL JAILING CHARGE SET

Hearing on a habeas corpus petition for Robert Brown charging he has been held illegally in the Marion County jail since Jan. 14 is to be held Friday in Criminal Court.

The petition alleges that the Grand Jury failed to return an indictment at its last session although Brown was placed in jail Jan. 14 on a robbery charge.

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RUSSIAN FLIERS END HOP NEAR MEXICAN LINE

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mileage before they officially touched earth far exceeds the old record.

They were overjoyed in the fact their sturdy monoplane was "set down" with no damage other than to the gas line.

After the impromptu reception in the cow pasture, where they were first greeted by R. H. McCoy, of Hemet, Cal., the fliers were welcomed officially by Maj. Victor Straum, Arctic regions.

March field officers promised to take the Russians into Riverside to shop for summer clothing.

Pilot Michael Gromov estimated that their plane covered 10,000 kilometers from the time it left Moscow.

The Russians explained that San Diego was the destination that they hoped to reach. They passed over March field this morning and saw it on the way south. When Los Angeles and San Diego were obscured by fog, they could not locate the Army field on the way back. Then they decided on the forced landing in the pasture when they agreed it was too risky to continue flying with their diminishing gasoline supply.

The chartered plane of Gregory Gokhman, Soviet consul general at San Francisco, arrived shortly after the aviators were taken to March field.

Troops Guard Airplane

Mr. Gokhman's party was escorted by soldiers to the Officers' Club at March field where the three fliers bathed after their long flight.

Troops were dispatched to the pasture to keep back curious. The fliers from the old world came down in an historic setting.

It was from the beautiful San Jacinto Valley that Helen Hunt Jackson drew most of her color for her story, "Ramona."

Within a few miles of the pasture in which Gromov's red and silver plane landed, while a hundred or so cattle grazed peacefully nearby, are many hot springs resorts, including Gilman Springs and Soboba.

Soboba Springs for centuries have been the gathering place of the Soboba Indians, who valued the waters for their medicinal purposes.

PLAYGROUND GAIN CITED

City Recreation Director H. W. Middleworth today announced a gain of 67,101 in the attendance at city playgrounds for the first four weeks since their opening over the corresponding period last year.

Log of Hop

By United Press

Following is the log of the Russian Polar fliers (all Indianapolis Times):

6:24 P. M. Sunday—Took off from Schelkovo airport, near Moscow.

1:01 P. M. Monday—Flew over Rudolf Island, last land point between Moscow and the North Pole.

3:15 P. M. Monday—Plane approximately 300 miles from Pole, flying at 13,560 feet.

6:14 P. M. Monday—Crossed the Pole. "Crew feeling fine, everything in order."

10 P. M. Monday—Plane approximately 600 miles this side of Pole, heading toward the American continent.

1:58 A. M. Tuesday—Reported position "straight Melville" (Melville Island, approximately 70 miles from the Pole).

2:37 A. M. Tuesday—Reported position at latitude 74 longitude 120, over Banks Island, in the Arctic Sea east of the Mackenzie River.

6:20 A. M. Tuesday—Reported over Pt. Norman in northern Canada, latitude 66, longitude 122. "Everything okay."

10:35 A. M. Tuesday—U. S. Army Signal Corps at Seattle, Wash., intercepted signal giving position below Pt. Nelson, Canada, approximately 700 miles from the U. S. border.

1:26 P. M. Tuesday—Reported position latitude 55 longitude 120, flying at 12,000 feet. "Everything all right." The plane was about 400 miles north of the U. S. border.

3:20 P. M. Tuesday—Reported at Usk, 100 miles east of Prince Rupert, B. C. Columbia, closely hugging the coast line.

8 P. M. Tuesday—Fliers reported they were on their course at an altitude of 12,000 feet. They failed to state their position, but said they expected to land at Oakland airport across the bay from San Francisco this morning.

11:15 P. M. Tuesday—Fliers asked Army Signal Corps at San Francisco to broadcast weather reports and information on San Diego airport, indicating that they planned to pass over Oakland and land in the southern part of the state, either at Los Angeles or San Diego.

1:32 A. M. Wednesday—Fliers asked at what time this morning fog would clear away at Los Angeles and San Diego, and whether there would be clouds over those cities. They gave no decision. (Unofficial reports placed them approximately 200 miles north of San Francisco.)

2:28 A. M. Wednesday—Fliers reported to Army Signal Corps that they would "pass Oakland."

2:40 A. M. Wednesday—Army Signal Corps officers reported that a message in Russian was "broken" in mid-transmission, and that efforts to contact the plane were fruitless.

3 A. M. Wednesday—A plane believed to be that of the Russian fliers passed over San Francisco and Oakland.

8:30 A. M. Wednesday—Landed in cow pasture three miles from San Jacinto, Cal., when gasoline line developed leak.