

G. O. P. Vows To Crush Filibuster By Bilbo Backers

Caucus Votes For Continuous Senate Session

Truman Message May Be Delayed

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clearly—and that Senator Bilbo be given an opportunity to reply.

Senator Homer Ferguson (R. Mich.) replied that Senator Bilbo: ONE was given a full outline of the charges against him at the war contracts inquiry; and TWO in effect did cross-examine witnesses.

Senator Hatch, disagreed vigorously. He said the constitution provides the guarantee that a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Demands Proof of Charges

Senator Taft interrupted to point out that the Republicans were not asking for a final decision now in seating Senator Bilbo. Senator Taft said it only was desired to defer the question until the senate could be organized.

Senator Hatch said that, if the charges against Bilbo were proved later, he would "unhesitatingly vote to expel him."

Senator Edwin C. Johnson (D. Colo.) asserted that he "concurred completely" in Senator Hatch's position.

"The question before us is very simple—whether we are going to give this man his day in court."

GOP Wins in Two Votes

Two test votes yesterday indicated a mixed majority of Republicans and Democrats desired to vote now to bar Senator Bilbo.

But the majority was stymied by the insistence of the group of southern senators that Senator Bilbo be seated pending further consideration of charges brought against him.

In a radio address last night Senator Taft declared that "such a clear abuse of the filibuster power will probably lead to a complete change in the rules of the United States Senate."

Threaten Rule Change

Senator Taft threatened a change of the rules limiting debate by a majority vote of the senate instead of a two-thirds vote as presently required.

The most controversial of senate rules is that which permits any senator to talk as long as he desires on any subject. That is how filibusters are born. Right now there are 14 Democratic senators whose spokesmen insist are prepared to speak for 40 days or so on the seating of Senator Bilbo.

Senator Bilbo's advocates did not tell the senate yesterday that he was fit or unfit to be a member of that body. They argued that the sovereign state of Mississippi was entitled to have her senate choice seated along with the others. Once seated, they said, further inquiry, discussion and decision could be had on whether Senator Bilbo was entitled to retain his seat.

Former Hoosier Aids Bilbo

Pending before the senate is a motion by Senator Wallace H. White (R. Me.), Republican leader, to proceed with the swearing in of senator-elect Owen Brewster (R. Me.). Yesterday's filibusterers were senators Allen J. Ellender (D. La.), or Senator Elmer Thomas (D. Okla.).

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