

Random Notes in Washington: Cabinet in Congress Doghouse

Not a Secretary Attends Joint Session—White House Pass Is No Help to Gray

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 15—The members of President Eisenhower's Cabinet are being subjected to bipartisan criticism at the Capitol for their failure to turn up at last Wednesday's joint session of Congress.

Not one Cabinet member was present to hear President José María Lemus of El Salvador, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield and the Secretary of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton, were out of town. The others, including the acting Secretary of State, Christian A. Herter, apparently did not think the occasion worth their time.

Among those miffed were Vice President Richard M. Nixon, House Speaker Sam Rayburn and the Senate majority leader, Lyndon B. Johnson.

They grumbled that the Cabinet showed up to hear the President or the Premier of a big power address a joint session, it stayed away when it was just the head of a small Latin-American republic. They noted that the Supreme Court always turned out.

Senator Johnson was heard to say that if anyone wondered why the United States was sometimes disliked south of the border, he could have found one good reason last Wednesday.

States Rights Note 3/16/59
Gordon Gray, the President's aide on the National Security Council, was down in his native North Carolina recently and had to produce some identification.

He pulled out his White House pass—complete with gold gle, picture, thumbprint and secret service stamp. A young Tarheel looked it over and said:

"Sir, don't you have a North Carolina driver's license?"

N. Turner
President Quotes Jenner

Amateur historians are busy these days trying to track down the origin of President Eisenhower's oft-sounded theme that the Soviet Union wants this country to "spend itself into bankruptcy."

A newspaper columnist suggested last week that George Humphrey, the former Secretary of the Treasury, was the author of the phrase.

But further research discloses that it was used earlier by former Senator William E. Jenner of Indiana, a stalwart isolationist and member of the Republican party's Right Wing. Senator Jenner used the argument regularly to oppose pending measures. He opposed ratification of the North Atlantic security pact, for example, on the grounds that the arms



Harris & Ewing
Gordon Gray

plan for European recovery. His argument: it would "please Stalin" to have the United States "spend itself into bankruptcy."

Just Getting Settled

Some Senators are having difficulty adjusting to their new office building.

Among other things, the welcome mat inside the front door was put in a shallow pit so that visitors are likely to slip and fall as they enter.

The clocks had handles so heavy that they could not be turned up to the top of the dial.

One Senator, pondering a long, low cupboard next to his desk was for, asked an aide and was told: "Trophies."

But the real eye-opening was the tunnel for a subway to connect the new Senate office building with the Capitol. When tunnelers reached the end of the tunnel, they turned and ran into a newly finished concrete wall.

Israelis Please

Senators representing the Israeli Government with the choice of Joseph P. Kamp, former New York State Attorney General, as the next U.S. ambassador to Israel.

The Israel Lobby is a political career office because he has access to the Republican Party theory of government. In the past, as a result of that "pull" mentioned in the title.

tions had broken off, Commissioner Bernard J. Forman summoned both sides to a meeting at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, 341 Ninth Avenue.

No progress was reported, and the meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Commissioner. Further mediation efforts are expected this week.

U. S. RECOVERS FUNDS

Avco Returns to Air Force a Million Charged in Error

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP)—Controller General Joseph Campbell told Congress today that an error of more than \$1,000,000 in costs in an Air Force B-52 airplane parts contract had been adjusted.

The contract was with the Avco Manufacturing Corporation's Crosley division of Cincinnati.

The Controller said an excessive price was negotiated for the \$15,000,000 contract because the Air Force had accepted more than \$1,000,000 of recorded costs, which the contractor had included in error in the pricing proposal.

He said Avco had refunded \$1,133,510 to the Air Force, expressed regret for its errors and said it had made changes in its accounting procedures in an effort to prevent a recurrence.

The Air Force also has taken steps to prevent such errors, the report said.

Jordan Budget \$106,000,000

AMMAN, Jordan, March 15 (AP)—The Government announced tonight a 106,000,000 budget for the next fiscal year starting April 1. Defense expenditures amount to half. A Government spokesman said revenues were estimated at 100,000,000, including United States aid \$39,000,000 during the next fiscal year.



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