

**This Week in Washington**

by Ralph E. Church  
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D. C., June 15—During the past week the nation's capital has been the scene of colorful activity in connection with the Shrine convention, which ended Thursday night with a spectacular street pageant and a beautiful display of fireworks. Everywhere were to be seen red, green and yellow flags and the red fez with its black tassel. The hotels and rooming houses were filled with nobles from every part of the United States, including Canada and the Panama Canal Zone.

It was with no little pride that I witnessed the enthusiastic reception given the Medinah Temple Band and the Medinah Chanters of Chicago. The largest delegation at the convention came from Chicago.

As this session of Congress continues on into the hot days of June one can note a growing weariness among the members of Congress, their secretaries and the clerks of committees. The pressure of long hours in the preparation and study of legislation, as well as handling of departmental matters, is beginning to unravel the nerves of those connected with the legislative branch of the government. One is asking the other the invariable, unanswerable question as to when Congress will adjourn.

The most interesting event of the week was the 15½ hour filibuster by Senator Huey P. Long, Democrat, of Louisiana, in a futile attempt to prevent the enactment of the resolution permitting the continuation of the NRA in a skeletonized form. He pressed for the passage of the amendment proposed by Senator Thomas P. Gore, Democrat, of Oklahoma, to the effect that all appointments to positions in the new NRA which paid \$4,000 or more a year must be confirmed by the Senate.

Shortly after the Senate met at noon on Wednesday Senator Long obtained the floor and began his speech which lasted until about 4:30 the following morning. His only relief from continual talking came from two quorum calls of about 10 minutes each and the questions propounded to him from time to time by Senators who sought to afford him a "rest." In order to retain the floor Senator Long could yield only for a question from another Senator or for a parliamentary inquiry addressed to the chair. Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat, of Nevada, would repeatedly ask long and rather involved questions of the Senator from Louisiana. Promptly some Senator, anxious to break the filibuster, would rise to a point of order that McCarran was not really asking a question.

Senator Long discussed everything imaginable. His speech included such things as "how to make Roquefort cheese, a salad dressing and

"pot-liker," "how to kill a chicken, rob a guinea's and hen's nest." To give him ideas a friendly Senator would propose a question, possibly making inquiry as to what he thought about a recent announcement by the President or Postmaster General Farley. While the question was being asked Senator Long would eat a small bit of a sandwich brought to his desk or drink from one of the several glasses of milk he consumed in the course of the filibuster. Finally, by force of sheer physical exhaustion, at about 4:30 a.m., he yielded the floor to Senator Thomas D. Schall, Republican, of Minnesota, and two hours later the Senate passed the NRA bill by a vote of 41 to 13.

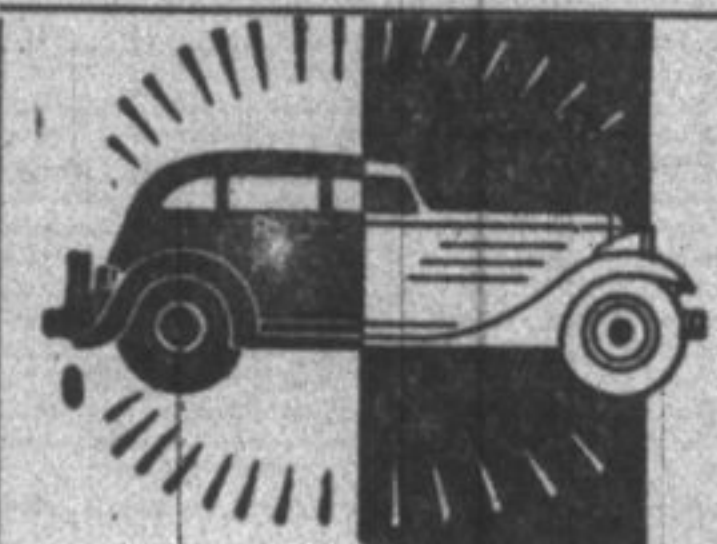
Yesterday the House received the amended resolution from the Senate and under a "gag rule" promptly disposed of the bill. The House had previously passed the resolution and the vote yesterday was solely upon the question of concurrence in a Senate amendment which would strengthen the anti-trust laws.

Senator Robert M. LaFollette holds the record for the longest filibuster conducted by a single Senator, when in May, 1908, he occupied the floor of the Senate for 18 hours and 23 minutes. However, he did not actually talk as long as Senator Long as the 1908 filibuster was filled with quorum calls, during which time LaFollette could rest.

The records show that the longest filibuster occurred in 1890. The Republicans tried to obtain a vote on a bill which would allow the Federal Government to supervise elections in the South. On December 3, 1890, the Democrats began a debate, yielding the floor only to their own membership, which lasted until January 26, 1891, when the Republicans conceded defeat.

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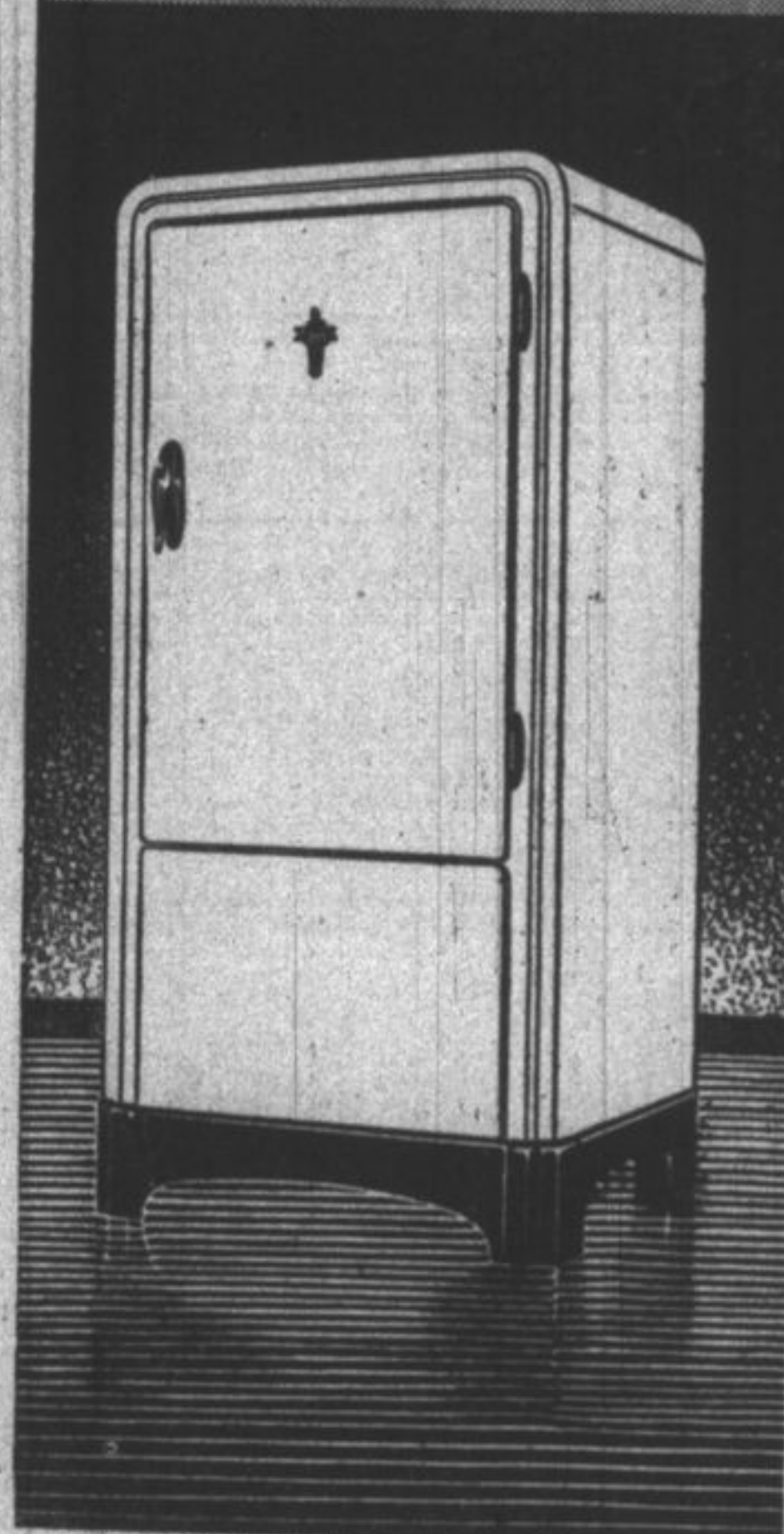
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