

# THE OMAHA GUIDE

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### Political Fort Sumter

FILIBUSTER CHECK NEARS SHOWDOWN

By Richard L. Strout

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington — The biggest fight in the next Senate may be over before the public knows what it is all about.

It is the effort to curb the filibuster.

Involved in it is the battle over civil rights legislation, the relationship of President Eisenhower and the Republican Party to the increasingly restless Negro vote, the deep schism among Democrats and the unstable alignment of American political parties.

Most likely the filibuster fight will be over quickly; most likely the drive to curb obstructionist tactics in the Senate (generally used by southern members against civil rights legislation) will fail.

But it now looks as though this could be an opening gun, a political Fort Sumter.

The administration is committed to civil rights legislation which can be blocked, or emasculated, if the filibuster remains. That will be a continuing issue.

In the same way, the Democratic Party faces the sharpest split in a half century.

The antifilibuster fight now raised by six Democratic Senate liberals may be defeated quickly, but it is hard to see how a stable balance can be achieved thereafter.

In the background is the curious position of the two parties, the GOP in control of the White House, the Democrats of Congress. The public seems to have put both parties on trial. Not for a century has a presidential election turned out that way; probably not for an equal time have party labels meant so little.

**First Senate Test**

The antifilibuster fight is the first big test.

What is it all about?

An 11-man filibuster in 1917 blocked the arming of merchant ships and President Wilson appealed to the Senate against "a little group of willful men."

The Senate in three days adopted a rule permitting two-thirds of those present and voting to limit debate by invoking cloture. The result followed 20 years of campaigning.

But in 1948 a long step was taken in the other direction. It was taken, as often happens, under the guise of moving forward.

Arthur H. Vandenberg, the Republican Senate president pro tempore, ruled that two phases were involved in applying cloture. First was a motion to take up a particular measure. Second was the measure itself. The 1917 cloture rule, Senator Vandenberg said, applied only to the second. No limit at all could be applied to the motion "to take up."

In other words, two filibusters could now be applied to block a bill and thwart a possible big Senate majority and on the first no cloture could be applied at all.

The Vandenberg rule was reversed next year (1949) by Democratic Vice-President Barkley. But the Barkley reversal was itself challenged. In a historic vote Senator Barkley was overruled, 46-to-41. The northern GOP conservatives united with the southern Democrats. It was a striking example of a coalition with which Washington is more familiar than the rest of the nation.

It was here that a so-called "compromise" amendment to Rule 22 was offered by GOP leader Kenneth Wherry. Southern senators read the terms with delight. They liked these two provisions: (1) cloture couldn't be used against a motion to change the rules; and (2) instead of requiring a two-thirds vote "of those present and voting" it required an absolute majority of 64 senators to apply cloture.

Those two provisions have pretty well sewed up civil rights legislation since then.

**Checks Hasty Action**

The South feels it is entitled to a veto power over matters so vital as social relations. The filibuster, Senate spokesmen argue, is a legitimate protection against hasty legislation.

Negroes, on the other hand, point out that they have a population of 15 million, annual purchasing power of around 16 billion dollars, about 5 million voters, and a Supreme Court decision banning segregation.

These are the unseen elements — the intangibles — beating against the Senate filibuster.

On January 3, 1953, a bloc of Senate liberals tried to revise rule 22 as Congress opened. Leader was Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D) of New Mexico. He argued the Senate is not "a continuing body" and hence new rules were in order. The argument turned on a technicality: Is the Senate "continuing"? On January 7 the Senate voted, 70-to-21, to table the Anderson motion.

Opponents argued it was not a civil rights battle at all. Result: the filibuster continued. The same coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats prevailed. The vote: for tabling: 41 Republicans and 29 Democrats; against: 5 Republicans, 15 Democrats and 1 Independent (Wayne Morse, who subsequently became a Democrat).

**President's Role Vital**

President Eisenhower's role in the renewed battle is important. In the 1952 election his spokesman, Henry Cabot Lodge, said that he was authorized to tell the press Mr. Eisenhower strongly opposed the filibuster.

When the late Senator Robert A. Taft, then party floor leader, put the matter to a GOP caucus in January, 1953, and a majority sustained Mr. Taft, the President did not interfere.

(Senator Taft opposed the idea that the Senate was not a continuing body, and based his opposition to a filibuster rules change on that point. Theoretically he was against the filibuster but he also maintained the coalition with the southerners.)

Recently Mr. Eisenhower has let it be known through Senator Irving M. Ives (R) of New York that he is sympathetic to a rules change.

To achieve this it is evident more Republican votes are needed. Southern Democrats will oppose it as a bloc.

Republican H. Alexander Smith (R) of New Jersey said here that Rule 22 "virtually prevents any consideration or vote on President Eisenhower's civil rights recommendations."

Congress will make a momentous decision right at the start.

## State of the Nations

Eisenhower and 1957

By Joseph C. Harsch,

Special Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington — The hiatus of the 1956 elections is over. The Congress is beginning to reassemble. The usual end-of-term resignations are on the President's desk. Some have been accepted. Some new appointments are made and others are being planned. New attitudes toward high policies, both foreign and domestic, are forming.

In other words, Washington is a place bustling with preparations for the start of a new administration which in many ways will be a projection of the old one but in some important ways will be a new beginning. What is the emerging shape of the future in Washington?

Two important facts are influencing the molding process which is going on.

First, there is a difference now between the position of President Eisenhower and of many of the men associated with him in government. He is beginning his second, and also his last, term. Under the Constitution as amended he may not run again. But many of those around him have continuing political careers or the hope of them. Therefore he is less intimately concerned than are these others with immediate policies and projects whose purpose is maneuvering for political position.

Of course, he continues to be interested in the welfare of the Republican Party. He has made a historic contribution to it. He has put it into control of the White House twice. He has led it in the formulation of new policies which increased its voting strength in many parts of the country. He gave it, a year ago, a legislative program which paid off in votes in big northern cities in November.

But the future shape and direction of the party are already, in effect, largely in the hands of those who are thinking of the 1958 and 1960 elections. It is up to them to decide whether it will continue along the road of Mr. Eisenhower's "modern Republicanism" or find some new inclination not yet apparent even to themselves.

Second, Mr. Eisenhower has a deep and amply justified conviction that he enjoys from force of circumstance an unusual opportunity to exercise the danger of atomic war from the surface of the earth. Among those close to him it is said that it was consciousness of his opportunity, plus a sense of the urgency of this task, which was the controlling factor in his decision to run for a second term.

With these two facts as a starting point one can project fairly accurately the shape and color of the year ahead.

To President Eisenhower the "meeting at the summit" in Geneva in the summer of 1955 was a starting point for his major historic role. He will be interested, of course, in what his lieutenants do in the way of shaping and proposing domestic legislation. He is interested in the maintenance of a sound economy, which means the avoidance of damaging inflation. He is interested in schools and highways. He is interested in liberalization of the Immigration Act, and in construction of more equal civil rights on the foundation of the Supreme Court's desegregation decision. But above all he is interested in reviving the "spirit of Geneva" and in building a more permanent structure on that beginning.

Thus it will be the younger men in the party with continuing political prospects who can be expected to take the lead in domestic policy and legislation. It is of vital interest to Vice-President Nixon whether the doors of the United States are opened wider to immigration. It is of vital interest to Attorney General Brownell whether the Republican Party gains the credit for steady progress from segregation. Future elections can well turn on what is done during the next period in these areas of domestic policy, and individual political fortunes as well.

But to President Eisenhower the vital thing is whether over these same years immediately ahead progress is made away from the danger of general nuclear war. His long personal meeting with Prime Minister Nehru of India takes on increasing importance in this connection. As those around him concentrate on legislative policies which could build Republican pluralities in coming elections, his own mind reaches out for ideas upon which a more stable peace might be built.

Mr. Eisenhower and his lieutenants are not moving down diverging roads. They are becoming specialists in different tasks which are complementary — not divergent, but still different. His great goal is to climax his career with a safer peace than the world yet enjoys. His first efforts will be devoted toward that end.

### From Around Nebraska

The Pierce Leader revealed an amusing story last week about a farmer who had gone to a farm sale and purchased a manure spreader. It was a spreader mounted on rubber tires which were filled with air.

The farmer pulled his purchase home and hitched his mules to the spreader. They were used to the rumbling old hard-wheeled affair which the farmer had used for many years.

With a big load of fertilizer on the newly-purchased spreader the farmer was starting out of the yard when one of the tires blew. It let out a long, familiar hissing sound which ended in a resounding bang.

Now the mules weren't used to all this and they dug in and set out on a dead run. The farmer maintained his stance on the load of fertilizer, however, and guided the charging animals into a fence corner. The frightened mules had no choice except to stop. Whereupon the farmer backed them out and started once more to unload the fertilizer across the field. And with the first turn of the wheel, the flat tire let out another wheeze as the remaining air was squeezed out as the wheel went around. Once more the mules started on a run, this time with no fence corner into which to be trapped.

The Leader didn't tell the details of what happened next but suggested that "old time" mules had probably better stick with the old things such as wagons with blowout proof tires.

The kids at Ord started back to school this week after a Christmas vacation which had been marked with destruction of their school building by the explosion of the boiler in the heating plant. Classes were being conducted all over town, making use of churches and community halls. Basketball games will be played in the nearby St. Paul, Nebraska Gymnasium and at the Loup City gym. Some music classes are being dropped temporarily and other unusual arrangements are being worked out.

Meanwhile, costs of making the needed repairs have been set at a maximum of \$110,000 instead of the first estimates of \$350,000. Temporary heating equipment is being installed to permit use of the undamaged part of the building.

Christmas trees at Blair and many other towns were gathered and burned in special religious services Sunday, but not so at Ogallala. There, the trees have been collected and taken to Lake McConaughy where they are tied into bundles, fastened to heavy rocks and placed on the ice of the lake.

When the ice melts the trees will settle to the bottom of the lake and provide ideal nesting places for fish to lay their eggs. A Wildlife club and the Ogallala Boy Scouts are carrying out the project which wildlife men say will have a marked effect on the propagation of fish in the lake.

Police and residents of Lexington had a scare last week when a white phosphorus bomb was tossed into a lawn and exploded. Fears that a "mad bomber" was on the loose at Lexington were rampant but a careful search failed to turn up anyone, according to the Dawson County Herald.

The bomb exploded with a loud roar which was heard for blocks around. It burned brightly with a brilliant white light. The phosphorus from the grenade burned the paint off the side of a car which was standing nearby and police said that the burns from the phosphorus would have been very painful to a human.

The following day the "spoon" or fuse of the bomb was found and an effort was started to trace it through munitions depots to find who had access to the bomb.

Franklin county had 34 new irrigation wells drilled in 1956, according to the Franklin County Sentinel. The number of wells in the county is now 159 and is becoming a major factor in the prosperity of that area.

David City's largest industry — an egg processing plant — has announced plans for an enlargement of the physical plant of the firm. The new addition which will be 48x42 feet and the equivalent of three stories high, will house egg drying equipment. The plant, under its present operations employs 75 to 80 persons and has a payroll of approximately \$130,000 per year. These figures will greatly increase after the addition is completed.

The Co-Operative Creamery at Madison, Nebraska, showed a nice gain in business during 1956, according to the Madison Star. More than 3 million pounds of butter were churned and over 100,000 cases of eggs were purchased. Most of the eggs are shipped to Texas. The plant will conduct its annual meeting late in February when bonus checks will be given those who have sold to the creamery.

Fairbury has purchased a new fire truck which has cost \$19,500. The outfit will be delivered in about five months, the Fairbury Journal estimated. Rating of the pump on the truck is 750 gallons per minute.

The Wilber school district has sued thirty-six property owners to force them to allow their properties to be annexed to the Wilber district. The thirty-six had held out during a consolidation move which enlarged the Wilber district. The Wilber board contends the land owned by the thirty-six property owners rightfully belongs in the enlarged Wilber district and that they should be paying taxes to support the Wilber school. The Crete News reported the suit.

Another revision of the electric rates which are in effect at Fairbury is to be made soon according to the Journal. New rates were put into effect several months ago and these have been found to be unsatisfactory. Protests of patrons over sharply increased bills and an abrupt drop in current use and electric revenues has prompted the new revision.

A man at Ames, Nebraska, recently took his first ride in an auto which he has owned for seven years. The Schuyler Sun showed the picture of a 1907 Buick which the Ames man had labored over for many hours to make it run. Last week everything was ready and he took it out for a trial spin. The same hobbyist also owns a 1912 Reo, a Model T, 1914 White and a 1916 Maxwell. The old Buick is a right hand drive, has gear shift and brake lever outside the body and has no front doors.

THEY WOULD READ YOUR AD TOO, IF IT APPEARED HERE



**THAT'S A FACT**

FORGOTTEN HERO

LOVELY GIFT

SCARED WELL

YOUR INVESTMENT PAYS OFF

**New Harbor**  
The harbor at Monrovia, Liberia, is under development under auspices of the United States and was opened as a free port July 26, 1948.

**In Return**  
In Liberty, Ky., the Casey County News advertised: "To the person who is so destitute as to be forced to take two lengths of garden hose and a sprinkler from the lawn of the First Christian Church — If you will call at the pastor's study, he will give you the five-year guarantee for the hose, your dinner, and any religion that may rub off on you."

**FATHER RESUMES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Calvin Steward, Dallas, Tex., father of three children, was stricken with polio in June 1955. He was wearing two long braces when he went home from the hospital but now wears only one. He has recently completed Barber School and took exams for a state license in November. Above he exercises under the supervision of physical therapist Marjorie Barre. Polio Foundation chapters aid patients to return to useful lives. Your contribution to the March of Dimes supports National Foundation chapter programs.

**Highest Mountain**  
France has the highest mountain in Europe west of the Caucasus, Mont Blanc, which towers to 15,781 feet.

**Wax is Dangerous**  
Don't wax a floor to the point that it becomes a slip hazard, especially if there are old people or children in the family.

**Quick Dessert**  
Broil some canned grapefruit segments with your next broiled dinner for a quick dessert. Use 1/4 cup of the juice from the grapefruit mixed with a dash of nutmeg, cloves and 1/4 cup brown sugar. Dot the grapefruit butter with this as well as the sugar mixture and broil about 8 minutes.

**Organized Dishwashing**  
Drainers and drainboards underneath them help to keep the dishes organized after washing; it also cuts down on the water which must be wiped from them.



**SOUP IN SECONDS THE FREEZER WAY**

The freezer can come to the rescue when it is homemade soup time. When soup is on the menu again, make enough for several meals and freeze it. In a little more than the time it takes to make soup for one meal, you can make enough for several with the aid of the freezer and approved packaging material such as Vapocans, square, waxed-board containers with rigid plastic lids.

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