

# Cummins Defeat Is Protest Against Esch-Cummins Act

It Is Also Signal That Insurgents Will Not Let Freight Rate Issue Slumber Nor Permit Burial of Legislation Which They Advocate

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, Jan. 10.—Defeat of Senator Albert Cummins of Iowa for the position of chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce is nothing more nor less than a manifestation of revolt against the Transportation Act known as the Esch-Cummins law because of the part the Iowa Senator played in its making.

The overthrow of the veteran Republican Senator, who by all customs and rules of seniority prevailing in Congress should have held the chairmanship so long as his party had a majority, is not due to any dissatisfaction on personal grounds.

If it were, the combination of insurgents with the Democrats which brought about Mr. Cummins' defeat for the chairmanship of his committee could just as well have been applied in preventing the election of the Iowa Senator to the much coveted position, the presidency protem of the Senate itself.

Some of Mr. Cummins' best friends in the West voted against him, contending that their fight was one of principle rather than personality. The insurgent bloc is composed largely of Senators from the agricultural states where the feeling prevails in many quarters that the present transportation act ties the hands of the interstate commerce commission and prevents the latter from ordering reductions in freight rates on farm products. The so-called earning clause of the act is held responsible for the maintenance of high freight rates and many a member of Congress was compelled in the 1922 elections to defend his vote on that act. Men who were elected on such a platform could not consistently support Mr. Cummins they said for the chairmanship of the very committee wherein new railroad legislation either repealing or amending the present law must be framed.

The election of Senator Smith of South Carolina, Democrat, to the chairmanship of the committee—the only Democrat to hold an important committee chairmanship—doesn't bestow on the Democratic party any responsibility nor does it assure a revision of the transportation act by the radical forces in the Senate. It is simply a truce and a form of protest against the Esch-Cummins act. It is even doubtful whether a coalition of insurgent Republicans and the full strength of the Democratic party in the Senate will occur again in the present session. On most all other issues the Democrats are themselves divided. The party strategy of the moment was for the Democrats to hold their lines taut and vote for their own candidate for committee chairman. The acquisition of insurgent votes making the election of Senator Smith possible was one of the accidents of peculiar situation.

It is an odd turn of fate that Mr. Cummins who in 1912 was one of the insurgent group whose activities led to the development of sentiment for a third party is today the victim of an insurgency springing from his own section of the country.

As a matter of fact Senator Smith is not a radical. He will preside over the committee in judicial manner since he owes his election to the votes of two parties. A committee chairman can sometimes sidetrack legislation but with important bills his powers are of doubtful value. Indeed, Mr. Cummins still remains a member of the Interstate Commerce Committee and can wield by his vote as much influence now as he could have with the chairmanship in his possession. The only significance the whole incident has is to serve warning on those who have been trying to bury legislation this session that the insurgents will not permit the issue to slumber.

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Jan 4-10

## MANY WAYS OF TELLING TIME

And Times Have Certainly Changed from the Cave Man Period to the Present Busy Days.

Washington, January 11—A 24-hour day, beginning at midnight, is so universally accepted by landsmen that the recent announcement that the system would be extended to ships, which now begin their day at noon, was surprising.

"However, land time and ship time are only two of a number of ways which men have marked the fleeting moments, and various other ways survive even now," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"Alfred the Great had wax candles, 12 inches high, marked in notches to tell off the four hours they burned. He later covered them with thin white horn, lantern-fashion, to protect them from drafts, but he was far from his times in comparison with other portions of the world, and his timepiece was crude in the extreme compared with other inventions before 900 A. D.

**Ancient Sun Dials**

"Primitive peoples, before the dawn of history, fixed a pole or stick in the ground and drew a line about it representing the course of the shadow it cast from sunrise to sunset. We may suppose that when Mr. Cave-man started out in the morning on a foraging expedition, he led Mrs. Cave-man out and notched the shadow line to show her when she could expect him home. Some of his fellow-mortals in other parts of the world in the same stage of development made a kind of hemp or grass rope which they dampened and knotted in regular spaces. When this was lighted, the slowly and regularly creeping spark told off the flight of time. It is said that these primitive time-markers are used in parts of Chosen (Korea) today.

"Though some students believe that the early Japanese had no method of reckoning time, others claim that primitive Japanese and Chinese used almost the same thing as the rope, though their device more nearly resembled a wick which had been so treated that it smoldered out the hours. One of these ancient wicks is now in a museum in Paris.

"Even before 3800 B. C. the sparkling stars over Eastern deserts had made astronomers of men who had begun to reckon by the cycles of the planets. No one knows when they first divided the time from the sun into 24 parts nor when the hours were first divided into minutes, but Ptolemy adopted the method in the second century and gave it to his world.

**A Time "Sinker"**  
"Some of the Malays even today use a crude apparatus for measuring time which has probably been in vogue in the Far East for almost 5,000 years. It is called the water-clock and is simply a small dish or round bowl with a small hole in the bottom. When this is placed in a tub of water it gradually becomes full and sinks, which always happens in the same period of time. On

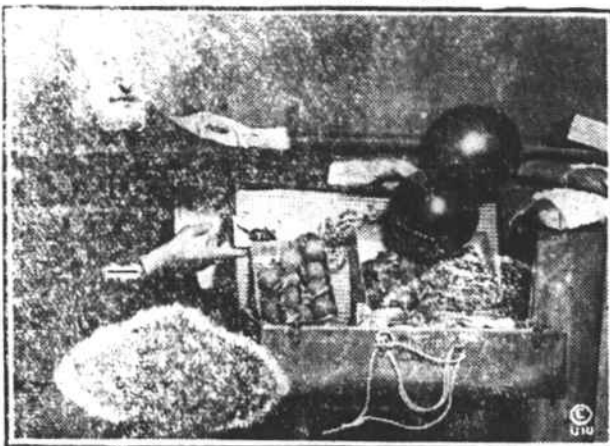
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the Malay junk it is the customary thing to see a coconut shell floating in a bowl of water to tell of the time away from the home port. It is simply a small dish or round bowl with a small hole in the bottom. When this is placed in a tub of water it gradually becomes full and sinks, which always happens in the same period of time. On the Malay junk it is the customary thing to see a coconut shell floating in a bowl of water to tell off the time away from the home port.

"The ancient Egyptians knew the water-clock too, and the British Museum possesses one inscribed with the name of Alexander the Great.

"The Greeks claimed that the sun dial was invented by a pupil of Thales of Miletus, but the great sundial of Ahas was mentioned in the Bible when God promised the sick Hezekiah to deliver his city out of the hands of the king of Assyria. Historians have fixed this date as being 713 B. C.

"From Greece the sun-dial made its way to Rome, the first one being set up in the temple of Quirinus. Roman citizens evidently suffered from that universal failing of orators, for in 61 B. C. Pompey the Great set up in the Forum a valuable water-clock which he publicly announced was to limit the long-windedness of speakers.

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not tell exactly of what substances they were made, but they were shown on Greek sculpture before the Christian era. The sand-glass or water-glass has two uses all its own: at the present time—for boiling eggs, and in the English House of Commons to time the bells that notify the members that a division is at hand.

"Water-clocks and sun-dials reached high perfection and elaborateness during the ninth century, century, the masterpieces exchanged by Harounal Raschid and Charlemagne being two of the most famous of history. The first portable astrolabe arrived from Arabia about 700 A.D. and from that time clocks of various kinds and classes made their appearance until Peter Light-foot in 1335 made the earliest real

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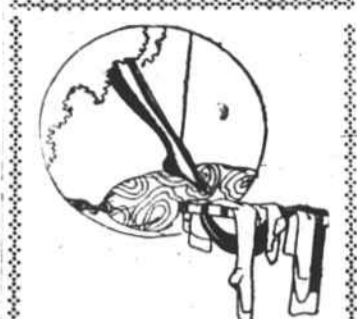
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