

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



WASHINGTON — The problem of Presidential disability will be a subject for Congress to probe in the coming months. It has been elevated to the point of urgency by the President's illness.

PRESIDENTIAL INABILITY

While I have not reached a definite position as to what Congress should do in this matter, there is increasing evidence to support the opinion that it will be solved only by a Constitutional amendment giving Congress the determining role. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee this question will cause me to give considerable study to the problem. My observation is that most of the suggestions thus far to give the executive branch of our government the major and controlling role in the matter have raised far more questions and problems than solutions. This I say in all sincerity, realizing that a solution is not easy.

LEGISLATIVE ROLE

A strong argument can be made to giving the legislative branch sole voice in determining when the President is no longer physically able to carry out the duties of his office. As one newspaper writer

pointed out recently, advocates of this position "feel it is logically in line with the Constitutional function of Congress for dealing with an indecisive presidential election or qualification and with impeachment proceedings".

As a consequence of preliminary thought on this matter, I am of the opinion that there is merit to this concept of a Constitutional amendment that would establish the procedure to follow in the event of the President's "inability" to discharge his duties.

I am not now favorably disposed to the creation of a commission to function for this purpose.

ONE METHOD

One method that can be said to be more harmonious with the kindred provisions of the Constitution now is a Constitutional amendment to provide that the House vote on whether a reasonable question of Presidential "inability" existed. If the House so voted the issue then would come before the Senate. It would require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to declare the disability and provide for the Vice President to succeed the President.

There is so much involved in an action of this importance that it should not be lightly studied.

Hay Is Still Just Hay Even if it's Ground

You may be able to kid yourself but you can't fool a cow into thinking poor roughage is a concentrate.

Yet, Guy Parsons, dairy specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says that there are still some dairymen who grind up all sorts of poor roughages, mix them into the concentrate, add a little molasses, and think they've got a good concentrate. A few dairymen even use corn cobs, straw, corn stalks and good, bad or indifferent hay in this manner.

What does this grinding and mixing do for the roughage? For one thing, it forces the cow to eat poor feed against her better judgment. She can't pick the grain out of the mixture. But, regardless, it's still just poor roughage; grinding does not improve it one iota, according to Parsons.

The dairy specialist says he doubts that the average dairyman can afford to force his cows to eat this kind of feed? As he points out, a cow has just so much room for feed in her digestive tract. Every pound of poor feed means there's room for a pound less good feed. And it takes a lot of even the best roughage to keep a cow working at her best.

Parsons adds that research has proved that there's little difference in hay when it is broken up. The dairy cow, a cud-chewing animal, has millions of bacteria in her stomach to help digest the woody part of the hay and break it down

into simple compounds she can use anyway.

So, Parsons suggests that — instead of grinding poor quality hay — you feed it heavily and let the cows pick it over for what they want.

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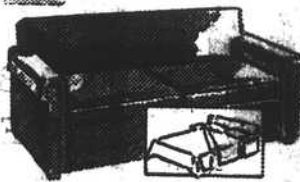
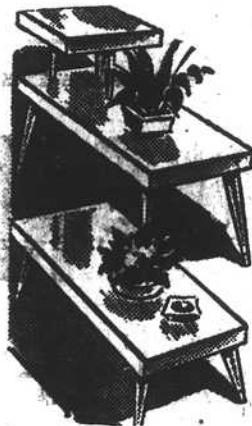
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