

JUL 29 1954

PROGRESS BULLETIN

Circ.: e. 15,154

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Date: JUN 23 1954

CPYRGHT

15 Freshman Congressmen Form Club

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The "S.O.S. Club" is perhaps the least known, yet the most exclusive of Washington's many political organizations.

Only 15 belong to it. All are Republican members of the House of Representatives, 41 years old or younger, and serving their first term in Congress.

The Morse code initials S.O.S. stand as a symbol of the club's purpose. Members are supposed to come to each others' aid and assistance. Some of the Congressmen's secretaries, however, jokingly refer to S.O.S. as Society of Statesmen.

The group formed back in April, 1953, when several freshmen GOP House members decided it would be a good idea to combine and give one another a helping hand.

Left entirely alone, many a newly-elected Congressman becomes lost and confused in Washington's maze of political finagling, seniority rights, parliamentary procedure and never-ending corridors.

Twice a week these young Republicans assemble to swap mutual problems, discuss legislation and generally keep abreast of political and governmental activities. One of the sessions takes place over breakfast and prominent figures are invited to talk informally to the club.

Many cabinet members have thus chatted to the group at these early morning gatherings, including Secretary of State Dulles, Secretary of Defense



'S.O.S.' CLUB BREAKFASTS WITH IKE—On the White House steps after scrambled eggs and bacon are (left to right) Representatives Rhodes, Hosmer, Stringfellow, Young, Merrill, Frelinghuysen, Holt, President Eisenhower, Hillelson, Cederberg, Warburton, Bolton and Wilson. White House adviser Sherman Adams' head shows just above Frelinghuysen; two other aides are at top center.

Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture Benson and Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey.

When Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was invited to join the club for breakfast at the Capitol he pulled a surprising switch. Everyone was asked to come over to the mystery shrouded C.I.A., for Dulles wanted to [redacted] of the club with all the maps and charts available at his agency.

Just recently the "S.O.S. Club" went to the White House at the crack of dawn to have scrambled eggs and bacon with the President. The Administration is well aware of the importance of this small segment of Republican Representatives.

In certain circles they are known as "Ike's Ramrods," for

on the whole they have strongly backed the President's legislative program. This is despite the fact that the club has in no way pledged to go down the line for the Administration.

Here is the roll call of the "S.O.S. Club:"

- John J. Rhodes, Arizona; Joe Holt, Craig Hosmer and Bob Wilson, California; Herbert B. Warburton, Delaware; D. Bailey Merrill, Indiana; Peter Frelinghuysen Jr., New Jersey; Jeffrey P. Hillelson, Missouri; Stuyvesant Wainright, New York; Clifton Young, Nevada; Elford A. Cederberg and Alvin M. Bentley, Michigan; Oliver P. Bolton, Ohio; Douglas R. Stringfellow, Utah, and Melvin B. Laird, Wisconsin.

The entire S.O.S. roster will

be on the ballot in the coming November elections. This makes the future of the club extremely uncertain, but its objectives have already been fulfilled. For by helping each other these Congressmen have been able to tackle their duties with far more understanding and confidence.

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