

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Two 'Deals' Linked to Labor Bill

By Drew Pearson

TWO UNADVERTISED political deals operated back stage during the Senate debate and passage of the moderate Ives-Kennedy labor bill. They were:

• A deal between liberal Senators and Southern Democrats to pass the labor bill in return for an agreement not to amend the filibuster rule for two years.

• A deal suddenly worked out between Sen. William Knowland (R-Calif.) and the White House to try to upset that deal and block passage of a moderate labor bill.

As passed by the Senate, the bill sponsored by Sens. Irving H. Ives (D-N. Y.) and John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) had been agreed on by such diverse personalities as George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, and Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ariz.), anti-labor chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. The bill also had the full support of liberal Sens. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) and Pat McNamara (D-Mich.), plus Southern Democrats.

Reason for the Southern Democratic support was a realization that Senate liberals would win four to eight new seats in the next election, probably enough to override the Southern rule upholding filibusters. Rather than gamble in a possible change of rules next January, Southern Senators agreed to vote for the labor bill, provided Northern liberals would give them another two years of the present filibuster rule.

THAT WAS THE REASON for an almost unanimous vote in the Senate Labor Committee. The one dissenting vote was belatedly Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), who, after the vote, came striding over to the Senate floor to tell Knowland:

"I never sat with such a bunch of weak-kneed sissies in my life."

He and Knowland then hatched the second deal—namely, to let the White House oppose the Ives-Kennedy bill.

"It's the only one we've got," Goldwater confessed.

Knowland fully aware that labor racketeering was the most important political issue in the campaign for California Governor next November. The Ives-Kennedy bill would end that issue. Therefore, he demanded the White House keep the issue alive by opposing the compromise bill. White House balked under, issued a fiery statement in the name of Labor Secretary Robert C. Weaver, who was actually in Sacramento, Calif., who was actually Mitchell, a close aide of Meany, Walter

Reuther and other labor leaders, privately had favored the moderate bill, but when White House aides decided otherwise, he had to go into reverse.

Ike's Changing Position

REP. PAUL KILDAY (D-Tex.) had just finished a speech on the Government reorganization bill, and some of his Democratic colleagues were engaging in a little partisan bantering in the rear of the House chamber.

"Just what is President Eisenhower's position on this bill—does anybody know?" asked Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.).

"Does Ike know?" quipped Rep. Edward Heber (D-La.). "It's important to start at the beginning."

"I'm not interested in the President's position today," interposed Rep. Arthur Winstead (D-Miss.). "We don't vote on this bill until tomorrow. Let's wait and see what his position is then."

Mystery Voice

THE SUPER-DUPER-SECRET Central Intelligence Agency is baffled. It's supposed to have more eyes and ears around the world than the Kremlin itself, but it can't identify a mysterious heckler who has been badgering the cloak-and-dagger boys.

For months the mystery voice has been placing long-distance phone calls to CIA chief Allen Dulles, from different parts of the country. The calls usually are switched to the security force. No matter who takes the calls, the same voice always asks the same question.

"Hello, Allen," he booms cheerfully. "I just wanted to ask whether everything is all right?"

Then the mysterious caller hangs up. CIA sleuths are still unable to solve the mystery.

Reopening Burma Road

THE AIR FORCE formally proposed relocating the Burma Road last week. The news was buried on page 14 of a routine contract list, dated June 3. But when the budget boys read it, they almost fell out of their swivel chairs.

They ordered an immediate investigation to find out why the Air Force should reopen the long, winding, jungle road that leads through Burma into the back door of China.

The investigators discovered, however, that the proposal referred to another Burma Road, nowhere near China. It is a short, dead-end street, called the Burma Road, at Moody Air Force Base near Valdosta, Ga.