

Expired Dies Committee Is Revived By Coalition

GOP, Democrats Of South Strike Early to Defeat Administration

By Robert C. Albright

Before President Roosevelt's Seventy-ninth (honeymoon) Congress was three hours old, a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats yesterday rolled back Administration forces in the House to revive the expired Dies committee investigation of American activities.

Smashing a 150-year precedent, the coalition struck as the fledgling House was going through the routine motions of extending its regular, standing committees. The rules were amended to give the old Dies group, hitherto a special committee of indeterminate duration, a permanent place with House "standing" committees.

The amendment, offered by shaggy-haired Representative Alvin Rankin (D., Miss.), leader of many another successful coalition attack, was approved 207 to 186 over the futile opposition of Administration leaders.

Administration Hope Dashed

Despite 30 additional Democrats installed by the November electorate, and the almost proportionate cut in Republican strength, the coalition the Administration hoped the election had disbanded clinched House control in its first test.

Seventy Democrats, mostly from the South, joined with 137 Republicans to vote authority for a continuing investigation of "subversives." Voting "no" were 150 Democrats, 34 Republicans and 2 of minor parties.

The unexpected move stole the play from the more or less stereotyped opening formalities before packed galleries on both sides of the Capitol. A few minutes earlier, Sam Rayburn (D., Tex.), reelected to his fourth term as Speaker, had appealed for "unity not only here but out there among our more than 130 million people."

Somber War Note

Both chambers opened a somber war note, with prayer the chaplains later echoed by both and the man at the heliostat. Democrats—Senate Leader Alben W. Barkley (D., Ky.) Their theme: "The nation has long way from over a great national effort to an early conclusion cement the peace."

The usual curious go through with a liberal sprig of khaki, blue and olive uniform. Vice President F. Wallace Swann in the new Senate then moved across the Capitol see House members take the in a body.

The Senate had recessed 12:46 and the House was hurried along the formalities. Le: made it clear that Congress wouldn't really get down to business until after tomorrow's House-Senate session, called count the electoral ballots hear President Roosevelt's final message.

Then arose Rankin with amendment to the rules.

Extolling the work done former Representative Martin (D., Tex.) and his controversial committee "in protecting Nation from saboteurs" Rankin told the House:

"This is no time to relax vigilance."

Sabath Tries to Block Move

His amendment did some veteran House parliamentarian said never had been done before. It established an investigating committee, formerly having no authority to report legislation, on House roster of permanent standing committees without a full committee hearing. It provided broad power to subpoena witnesses and records.

House Rules Committee Chairman Adolph Sabath (D., Ill.) vainly to knock it out on a point of order. House Accounts Chairman

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