

Rep. Green's Anti-Riot Bill Opposed

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.), the Carry Nation of the Education and Labor Committee, had colleagues in a riotous mood as she sought Committee approval of a college anti-riot bill. It would have required colleges receiving Federal aid to submit a "battle plan" to stop campus disorders.

Both HEW Secretary Robert Finch and Education Commissioner James E. Allen vigorously objected to Mrs. Green's bill, warning that it might lead to increased government interference in campus life.

Mrs. Green, supported by her co-sponsor, Rep. John Erlenborn (R-Ill.), shot back that 50 House members were advocating even tougher measures to restrict college aid. She refused to retreat until finally voted down by the committee.

But she had fellow Democrats on the Committee biting their nails as the anti-riot legislation was fought out at a party caucus in closed session. At one stage Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) protested;

"You are bringing this bill before the full Committee when your own subcommittee hasn't even acted on it. Obviously you didn't have the votes for subcommittee approval. This is a highly unusual procedure."

"You are misrepresenting the facts," fumed the lady from Oregon. "My subcommittee did hold a hearing on the general subject matter."

She finally agreed to tone down the "battle plan" provision and delete other provisions barring aid to students if they engaged in disorders.

Gas Merger Overruled

It was obscured by the headlines over Adam Clayton Powell, but the Supreme Court simultaneously handed down a historic opinion in the El Paso Natural Gas merger case.

It slapped down El Paso for

its merger with Colorado Interstate Gas, thereby bluntly reversing the Justice Department for dropping this antitrust suit.

And though the Court didn't say a word about it, lawyers read between the lines that the slap also involved the Nixon law firm, which received a total of \$771,129.83 from El Paso during the years 1961-67. Two senior partners of the Nixon law firm are now all-powerful in Washington—one as President, the other as the Attorney General.

Four days after becoming Attorney General, John Mitchell permitted his department to drop the antitrust case against the El Paso merger—though Solicitor General Erwin Griswold said it was his decision.

Shortly thereafter the Supreme Court, in an unusual move, retook jurisdiction of the El Paso case.

It was William Bennett, former Public Utilities Commissioner of California, who argued the case before the Court in April as he has on three separate previous occasions, each time winning.

"I am amazed," he stated after the Court ruled this week, "that the Washington press corps is afraid to ask Nixon why he gave this great economic favor to a valuable law client. What he did was similar to what Abe Fortas was accused of doing, favoring an old law client."

Old-Fashioned Congress

Gov. Bill Guy of North Dakota, who has served as Governor of that state longer than any other man in history, delivered a significant speech before the "North Dakota Boys State" the other day in which he suggested that the students of the Nation stage their protests in the right place, namely at the doors of Congress.

"You are justified in seeking changes," Gov. Guy told the boys of North Dakota, "but I have seen no youthful

protest over the failure of Congress to adjust itself to change.

"You need to examine that all important cog in our democracy—the Congress of the United States . . . where democracy is thwarted by archaic rules, where powerful committee chairmen can prevent a President's proposals from even being considered, where the chairman of the Rules Committee in the House can block forever the consideration of legislation favorably passed out of any House committee.

"It must seem strange to students in this electronic era that our Congress still records its votes by tedious voice votes instead of by electronic voting machines such as the North Dakota legislature has used for decades.

"If the youth of this country really want to move our communities and our states and our Nation, then the logical place to begin is with renovation of the Congress . . . I am amazed that Congress has escaped the protest of youth so long, for there is the key to the remedy of this country's grave social and economic problems."

Gov. Guy will retire after his present term and run for Congress.

Opening for Negroes

Secretary of Transportation John Volpe is making an exhaustive effort to recruit and advance Negroes in his department.

He has ordered a survey of all Negroes in the top grades who haven't been promoted for two years to find out whether they are underemployed and to boost them up the government ladder.

He has also put special emphasis on conducting talent hunts at colleges with a high Negro enrollment.

In a directive to subordinates, Volpe has declared flatly: "Before filling any supergrade position or any professional level position with a non-minority group person, the selecting official in OST (Office, Secretary of Transportation) must report on the affirmative efforts made to consider minority candidates qualified for the particular position."

Note: This has caused some whites to complain that it is discrimination in reverse.

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