

## merry-Go-Round

3/21/66

Senators, Consumers  
And Truth on Labels

Drew Pearson

HOUSEWIVES will not be present at the closed-door session of the Senate tomorrow when it considers a bill introduced by Senator Phil Hart (Dem-Mich.), requiring manufacturers to print on the labels of grocery and other packages the exact quantity they contain.

If the homemakers were present they would find that the man who inherited the shoes of the famous consumer protector, Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, is not following in Kefauver's footsteps.

Senator Ross Bass of Tennessee is one of three Democratic key senators on the committee who are holding back against truth-in-labeling.

Two other Democrats, Senators Vance Hartke of Indiana and Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, are still undecided.

These three will be the swing votes. All other Democrats except Frank Lausche (Dem-Ohio), favor protecting the consumer.

Six Republicans, however, will vote solidly against the consumer. They are: Senators Norris Cotton (N.H.), Thruston Morton (Ky.), Hugh Scott (Pa.), Winston Prouty (Vt.), James Pearson (Kans.), Peter Dominick (Colo.).

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DESPITE THE vigorous, sometimes bitter opposition from dove Senators, the President has been going about the business of passing legislation as if nothing had happened. Last week he summoned all chairmen of Senate committees to the White House to discuss the legislative program.

Among them was Senator William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and one of five

senators who had voted against Mr. Johnson on rescinding the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. This is the resolution which, in the fall of 1964, gave the President carte blanche to proceed militarily in Vietnam and which Mr. Johnson claims authorizes him to carry on the rapidly expanding war.

Though Fulbright had been one of the most effective opponents of the President and though Mr. Johnson obviously was unhappy about his opposition, the two men talked at the White House meeting as if nothing had happened.

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WHEN MR. JOHNSON asked Fulbright for a report on pending legislation before the Foreign Relations Committee, the senator from Arkansas mentioned the Russian consular treaty with the United States, and observed that probably the political climate was not conducive to ratifying it.

Fulbright discussed the matter dispassionately, did not mention the fact that J. Edgar Hoover had come out with an excoriating blast against consulates conducted by Communist countries in the United States—a statement which made ratification of the consular treaty difficult if not impossible. Fulbright also did not mention the fact that this was a treaty which the United States had requested, not the Russians, and that the Russians planned to open no new consulates in the United States.

The President, discussing the treaty with equal dispassion, seemed to think the political climate was not ready. He too did not mention J. Edgar Hoover's statement.

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