

Dec 22 This week in Washington

The Washington spotlight for the week has played upon the Senator L. D. Belfrage of Miss. & the investigation of his political campaign & personal life. Of course it is not too important whether one old man becomes or does not become a member of the U. S. Senate, but the question takes on national importance because of its political implications. Senator To a very great many Am. Senators Belfrage typifies the grimy side of politics. Moreover many people regard him as a personification of ~~the~~ intolerance & bigotry.

The investigation has developed,
 brought ~~to light things~~ in out
 circumstances which to say the
 least appear unsavory. ~~But~~
~~Senator Bilbo~~ Senator Bilbo is
~~the~~ kind of man for whom I
 would never vote but the
 majority of the people voting
 in Miss. chose to vote for him
 as one of their representatives in
 the U. S. Senate, and ~~the~~ ^{the Senate will be} going
 pretty far to say that the people
 in Miss. shall not have the right
 to elect the man of their choice to
 represent them in that body. I
 grant that ~~these~~ ^{the Senate} under some
 circumstances, which under the

constitution is sole judge of its
 membership & ~~has~~ ^{has} an unquestioned right
 to deny a Senator elect the
 privilege of membership, would
 be justified in doing so. But,
 in my opinion, this unusual
 power should be exercised only
 in extreme cases. Not having had
 an opportunity to study the
 evidence I am not prepared to
~~say~~ ^{a conclusion} express ~~an~~ opinion as to
~~whether~~ Senator Bilbo.

In the background looms
 the shadow that ~~far~~ ^{not}
 overshadows Senator Bilbo
 the importance of Senator
 Bilbo's membership in the Senate
 It is a shadow of national ^{political} & high
 political strategy of the Republican
 party. In the November election
 the Republican party received, for
 the first time since 1932, a ^{large} ~~good~~
 share of the negro vote in the
 North & East. Without this vote
 they could not have been
 successful but that is only half
 of the story. Unless they retain

this vote in 1948, their chances of electing a President and a majority of another congress would be greatly diminished and that is where the Bulbo question comes in. Senator Bulbo is perhaps hated & abhorred above all Americans by the negro race. He has advocated, in the Senate, returning all of them to Africa and in every respect typifies the "keep the negro down" kind of politician.

The unseating of Senator Bilbo would constitute a very strong appeal to the negro vote and because of this and for other reasons, too, a great many Republican Senators are signing themselves against the seating of Senator Bilbo. In fairness, I should say, the opposition to Senator Bilbo and the political appeal inherent in the anti Bilbo position is by no means confined to the negro. Quite to the contrary, he is an object of detestation to a great many tolerant and liberal

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American citizens. That too is
a part of the political implications
of this question. Indeed, I am told
by very responsible & able
Mississippians that had it not been
for the constant criticism & harangue
by such northern elements as
Walter Winchell, Drew Pearson &
other outside influence, which
Mississippians ^{resented} they would not
have reelected Senator Bilbo. But
be that as it may, the skeletons
are now being pulled out of
Senator Bilbo's closet one by one.

5.

If no other good comes of
it, it will serve as ^{a living} warning
to other men in politics, particularly
young men entering public
life, ~~to be sure~~ that their
sins will find them out. One
who has been honored & entrusted
with public trust should regard
himself as a repository of public
confidence. To justify this confidence
~~his person~~ a public figure finds
it impossible to separate his
personal life from public
affairs. Both personally &

in public affairs he must
walk the straight & narrow
path, shunning even the
appearance of evil. This is
so because our government
is composed of principles &
personalities. The principles
are everlasting; the personalities
transitory. But transitory as they
may be the effectuation of the
principles and policies ~~a~~ can
only be accomplished through
officials endowed by the people
with trust & power. Therefore,

When a public official violates
that trust & confidence, he not
only destroys the confidence
the people have in him but
he shakes their confidence
in their entire system of
government.