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The South in Control.

SPEECH

OF

HON. D. B. HENDERSON,

IOWA,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Wednesday, August 30, 1893.

The House having under consideration the report of the Committee on Rules—

Mr. HENDERSON of Iowa said:

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems to me that in the discussion that is now going on, as well as in some of the amendments that have been offered to this code of rules, an attempt is being made to reverse the election of last November. The Democratic party won the last election and have a majority in this House, and yet by these amendments it would seem we are trying "to turn them down." [Laughter and applause.]

I voted against the proposition to draw sectional lines on the amendment offered by my friend from Washington [Mr. WILSON], because this is not the place for that. At the polls is the place to give fair play to the entire country, and not come in here and try to do it by dabbling and piecemealing. My friend from Nebraska [Mr. BRYAN], it seems to me, is making the same mistake. You want to give, you say, to all of the sections of the country fair play, and you want to try to bring the great trans-Mississippi and mountain regions into the arena here and for fair play to put them upon the same footing as other regions. Too late! You should have attended to that, my friends, when the last general election was held. [Applause on the Republican side.]

Why, Mr. Speaker, this country is not in the control of the East in this House. Nor is it in the control of the middle section in the House, and certainly not in the control of the great West. That great stretch of country from sea to sea, where the smokestacks tell of the great engines of power driving all the mighty business of the nation, is not here in control.

Let us see where the majority of the majority of these committees is to be found. The Committee on Elections has nine Democrats and six Republicans. Of the majority of 9, seven-

ninths are from the South. The Committee on Ways and Means, 11 Democrats, and of that majority six-elevenths are from the South. The Committee on Appropriations, 11 Democrats, of which majority seven-elevenths are from the South. The Committee on the Judiciary, 11 Democrats, and a majority of seven-elevenths of that great committee are from the South. The Committee on Banking and Currency, 11 majority, and seven-elevenths from the South. The Committee on Coinage Weights and Measures, 11 majority, of which seven-elevenths are from the South.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce, that wields such power over the destinies of the country, has 11 majority, and six-elevenths of that majority are from the South. Rivers and Harbors, the great feeder to the vast masses of the people and the transportation interests of the country, has 11 majority, and eight-elevenths from the South. The Committee on Agriculture, 11 majority, with seven-elevenths from the South. The Committee on Foreign Affairs, 9 majority, with six-ninths from the South. On Naval Affairs, 9 majority, and five-ninths from the South.

Post-Offices and Post-Roads, 9 majority, with sixth-ninths from the South. Public Buildings and Grounds, 9 majority, with six-ninths from the South. Education, 8 majority, with six-eighths from the South. Claims, 9 majority, with six-ninths from the South. War Claims, 7 majority, with four-sevenths from the South. District of Columbia, 9 majority, with seven-ninths from the South. Election of President and Vice-President and Representatives in Congress, 8 majority, with six-eighths from the South. Immigration and Naturalization, 7 majority, with four-sevenths from the South. Committee on Rules, 3 majority, with two-thirds from the South. Committee on Printing, 2 majority, all from the South. Joint commission to inquire into the status of laws organizing the Executive Departments, 2 majority, all from the South.

And how about the North? The Northern Democracy gets a majority of the following great (?) committees:—

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HAUGEN. If I may be recognized, I will yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. HAUGEN] is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. HAUGEN. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. HENDERSON].

Mr. HENDERSON of Iowa. Now, I have named the great committees, and shown where the control is in the committees that shape the business of this country.

Now, let us see what the Northern Democracy gets in the way of control of committees.

You have the majority of the Committee on Military Affairs, which is a powerful committee, indeed, in these times of war. [Laughter.] You have a majority of the Committee on Public Lands, when nearly all the public land questions have been settled. You have a majority of the Committee on Territories, when there is nothing left, I believe, but Utah, to be figured on. You have a majority of the Committee on Manufactures, a gigantic committee, my Northern Democratic friends. [Laughter.]

You have a majority of Mines and Mining. What a power in the interest of this great nation! [Laughter.] You have a majority of the Committee on Labor, on Private Land Claims, Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, on Irrigation of Arid Lands, on Ventilation and Acoustics! Look out for your health, boys. Keep in good health those in control so that they may be able to run the House. You have a majority of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury, War, and Post-Office Departments, in the Department of Justice; you have a majority on the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings. The South has the chairmanship of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, so they can manage it. You of the North have a majority of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, and of the Select Committee on Capitol Centennial Anniversary.

The committees that are evenly divided between the North and the South in the majority are as follows: Indian Affairs, Railways and Canals, Pacific Railroads, Reform in the Civil Service, and the Committee on Accounts.

Now, my good friend from Nebraska [Mr. BRYAN], do not go paring around the edges when it will count nothing. I say to my good friend from Washington [Mr. WILSON], do not consume the time of the House with your amendment drawing a sectional line when it will not amount to anything. That was *res adjudicata* on election day, until next election day, and then we may change the *res*.

Let us look a little further. Who are the chairmen of these great committees? The South has the following chairmen: Election, Ways and Means, Appropriations, Judiciary, Coinage, Weights and Measures, Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Rivers and Harbors, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Post-Offices and Post-Roads, Public Lands, Territories, Railways and Canals, Public Buildings and Grounds, Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River, Education, Pensions, Claims, Private Land Claims, District of Columbia, Revision of the Laws, Ventilation and Acoustics, and six of the Department Expenditure committees; also on Public Buildings and Grounds, on Rules, on Accounts, on Printing, and on the joint commission to celebrate the Capitol Centennial—thirty-three in all.

There are the great committees that do the business of this House shaping the legislation of the nation. The following committees have Northern chairmen: Banking and Currency, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Indian Affairs, Manufactures, Mines and Mining, Pacific Railroads, Labor, Militia, Patents, Invalid Pensions, War Claims, Reform in the Civil Service, Election of President and Vice-President and Representatives in Congress, Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, Irrigation of Arid Lands, Immigration and Naturalization, Expenditures in the Treasury Department, Expenditures in the Department of Justice, Mileage, Library, and Enrolled Bills—with a very few exceptions, these are worthless committees and have but little influence on legislation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is all right. The Democracy of the South are entitled to it. They are the head and body and shoulders and brains of the Democratic party. You are right, gentlemen, in taking control of this Government; but let the Demo-

cratic party North answer to the great people of this country if they were right in putting you in control. There is the milk in the coconut. You have carried the election, my Democratic friends. The silver-tongued gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BRYAN] helped to bring on this reposing of power in the Democratic party, and now do not get down and wriggle when you suffer from the logical result of that election. [Applause on the Republican side.]

[Here the hammer fell.]

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