

86th Congress Opens Election-Year Session

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress began its election-year session yesterday amid handshaking and backslapping.

But Democratic leaders lined up civil rights and other issues certain to end the bipartisan good-fellowship quickly.

The Senate and House were called to order at noon. Only

the opening prayer stilled the chatter of members greeting each other after a four-month interval.

Wielding the gavel in the Senate was Vice President Richard M. Nixon, a center of attention now that he is rated a shoo-in for the Republican presidential nomination.

In the House, the familiar bald-domed figure of Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex) was given a standing ovation when he walked in to preside over the opening ceremonies. He has been speaker for 15 years—longer than any other in history.

This first day of the 86th Congress' second session was devoted to preliminaries such as the swearing in of two new members—Sen. Norman Burnsdale (R-ND) and Rep. John Kyl (R-Iowa).

President Eisenhower will drive up to Capitol Hill today and, before a joint session, tell Congress what he expects of it.

The Democrats — who hold heavy majorities in both Senate and House—are sure to receive Eisenhower's recommendations in a show-me mood, since this is a year in which the nation will elect a new president and a new Congress.

Talking with newsmen ahead of the opening session, Rayburn said the Democrats will cooperate with Eisenhower "on everything we think would be to the advantage of the country." Otherwise, he added, "we will oppose," the President.

Ike to Pay Visit To South America

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower, fresh from triumphs of personal diplomacy in other parts of the world, will pay visits in late February and early March to Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

The President, accompanied by Mrs. Eisenhower and his brother Milton, among others, will spend 10 days on the journey.

"The President," an official announcement said yesterday "hopes that his visit will serve two purposes:

"Publicly reflect his deep interest in all the countries of the new world.

"Encourage further development of the inter-American system.

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Pa. May Drop Vote Age to 18

HARRISBURG (AP) — A constitutional amendment lowering Pennsylvania's voting age to 18 is being considered for the 1960 session, a Democratic legislative leader said yesterday.

"It could be revived this session," commented Rep. Stephen McCann, House Democratic floor leader.

The proposal died in Senate committee in the 1959 session after passing the House. In the 1957 session, both chambers had approved it, but it has to be approved by two successive, but separately elected, legislatures before going to the voters for final approval.

Since the 1960 Legislature is the same as that elected for 1959, it could still salvage the amendment and put it before the voters in the fall, McCann said. Both parties endorsed the lower voting age in their 1958 campaigns for the governorship.

MIDAS to Be Launched By USAF Next Month

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The Air Force expects to make the first flight test for Project MIDAS, a satellite system designed to provide the U.S. with almost instant warning of a missile attack, next month.

MIDAS, which stands for Missile Defense Alarm System, will be used to detect an intercontinental-range ballistic missile—ICBM—the moment it is launched.

The alarm would be flashed immediately to the nation, which then would have about 30 minutes to prepare for a nuclear bombardment.

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