

House picks Republican speaker

HARRISBURG (AP) — The Pennsylvania House, embroiled in a combative partisan battle in a heated opening session, elected Republican H. Jack Seltzer as its speaker yesterday.

Seltzer, a Lebanon County bologna processor, was elected by a 101-98 vote along straight party lines. It came near the end of a heated four-hour debate over the seating of two representatives and over the propriety of electing a speaker without their votes.

He accepted the gavel from former Speaker K. Leroy Irvis, D-Allegheny, following a stormy session that could set the tone for legislative quarrels during the next two years.

The wrangling, which bogged down in constitutional objections, centered around whether Kenneth Halverson, R-Somerset, and Ron Gatski, D-Luzerne, could officially take office while their elections are under appeal in state courts.

Neither took part in the voting, with Gatski walking out of the chamber after his voting right was withheld by the presiding officer, Chief Clerk Vincent Scarcelli.

"I demand to be sworn in and allowed to vote for the people of my district," Gatski said before leaving.

Arctic air

An arctic air mass that has invaded Happy Valley will make for unreasonably cold weather this week. Both today and tomorrow there will be intervals of clouds and sunshine, a few snow flurries, and breezy conditions resulting in a wind chill factor of well below zero. The high will be 10 today and 15 tomorrow. Tonight will be clear with a low of 4.

Republicans hold a bare majority in the 203-member House, the first time in four years they hold the upper hand. In addition to the two disputed races, one seat is vacant.

Republicans are contesting the election of Gatski, who won re-election and then won a recount that has since been appealed.

The state Supreme Court ordered Halverson's seating delayed until the appeal in his election is heard. Halverson won re-election only after a recount overturned his defeat.

Since neither party has the 102-vote constitutional majority, legal staffs from both parties worked to find precedents that would keep them in control.

Republican Whip Matthew Ryan of Delaware County said no one should be surprised that the opening day ceremonies had become a donnybrook.

"We knew there were going to be problems," he said. "I don't think there are any real surprises here for any of us. It's truly unfortunate there was no clearcut majority on Nov. 7 if for no other reason than that these proceedings today could go on in reasonable fashion so there is no additional shame on this General Assembly."

He said Republicans wanted to delay the seating issue and reorganize the House with a simple majority. However, Democrats contend a constitutional majority - 102 votes - is needed before a speaker can be elected.

The Republican margin was widened to 101-98 because of the absence of Rep. John Brunner, D-Washington.

Meanwhile, the Senate's opening ceremonies included some unexpected twists.

Republicans broke with recent practice and put up a candidate to op-



H. Jack Seltzer

pose Senate President Pro Tem Martin L. Murray, D-Luzerne.

All but one of the 23 Republicans supported Sen. Richard Snyder, R-Lancaster.

However, Snyder joined the 27 Democrats and voted for Murray, who

was re-elected to his ninth two-year term in the powerful and lucrative post.

Republicans also tried to delay the election of the Senate librarian, Ann Land, a Philadelphia Democratic ward leader. However Democrats defeated the motion on a straight party 27-23 vote.

University trustee cabinet nominee

By ELLIOT GROSSMAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Gov.-elect Richard Thornburgh yesterday nominated University Trustee Penrose Hallowell for state Secretary of Agriculture.

If confirmed by the state Senate, Hallowell would be at least the third person from the University community to hold that position.

Hallowell, 50, has operated a 290-acre dairy farm in Bucks County since 1951. He has served as a trustee since July, 1977, after being elected by delegates from the state's agriculture societies.

University Trustee Helen Wise said Hallowell got the nomination because he worked in Thornburgh's campaign as farm bureau coordinator.

Richard Grubb, associate secretary of the trustees, said yesterday that the appointment may benefit the University since Hallowell could serve as a good liaison with the College of Agriculture. He said two former agriculture secretaries, William Henning and Leland Bull, who were also University agriculture professors, were good liaisons.

Henning said that while he was agriculture secretary from 1955 to 1963, he was in a position to help get funds for new University buildings and to work for increased state appropriations.

Since the agriculture secretary is also an ex-officio University trustee, the president of the board of trustees will appoint someone to serve the

remainder of Hallowell's term as agriculture delegate, Grubb said. The term expires July, 1980. It is not yet known who will make the appointment, since trustee president William K. Ulerich said last month that he will not seek a fourth term. The new president is scheduled to be elected before the end of January.

According to the Associated Press, Hallowell said, "Agriculture is a major industry in Pennsylvania. I hope I can help farmers and consumers . . . to help improve Pennsylvania's economy and do some positive things for confidence in government."

He graduated from the University's College of Agriculture in 1950.

According to the Associated Press, also nominated to cabinet posts were: — Dr. Robert Wilburn as secretary of the budget and administration.

— Dr. Ethel Allen, 49, a Philadelphia city councilwoman who once considered running for mayor in 1979, as Commonwealth secretary. She would become the nation's highest ranking black woman in an appointive state position.

The 35-year-old Wilburn has served as president of Indiana University of Pennsylvania for four years and is a former vice president of the Chase Manhattan Bank. His appointment, which does not need Senate approval, consolidates two separate departments in the current administration.

Wilburn's salary in his cabinet-level post is undetermined.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS Wednesday, Jan. 3

Winter Term classes resume, 8 a.m.
Drop deadline.
Preregistration deadline for Spring Term.
Course repeat deadline.
Pass Fail.
Sports: women's basketball, vs. Illinois State, 7 p.m.
Meetings:
Students for PennPIRG, 7 p.m., Room 316 Boucke.
Dairy Science Club, 7:30 p.m., Room 201 Borland.
Episcopal Student Association, 7:30 p.m., Room 317 Boucke.
Froth, 7:30 p.m., Room 314 Boucke.
Nittany Grotto, 7:30 p.m., Room 309 Willard.



ECO-ACTION invites you to attend these events, part of its winter term series on **NUCLEAR POWER**:

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3
9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
HUB Assembly Hall

A short filmed debate between Helen Caldicott and Reginald Rogers, "Radiation and Health"

Nancy Daugherty, Associate Health Physicist will speak on "Ionizing Radiation"
— What is it?
— How is it measured?
— What are its effects?

THURSDAY, JAN. 4
7:30 P.M.
111 Boucke

U-007

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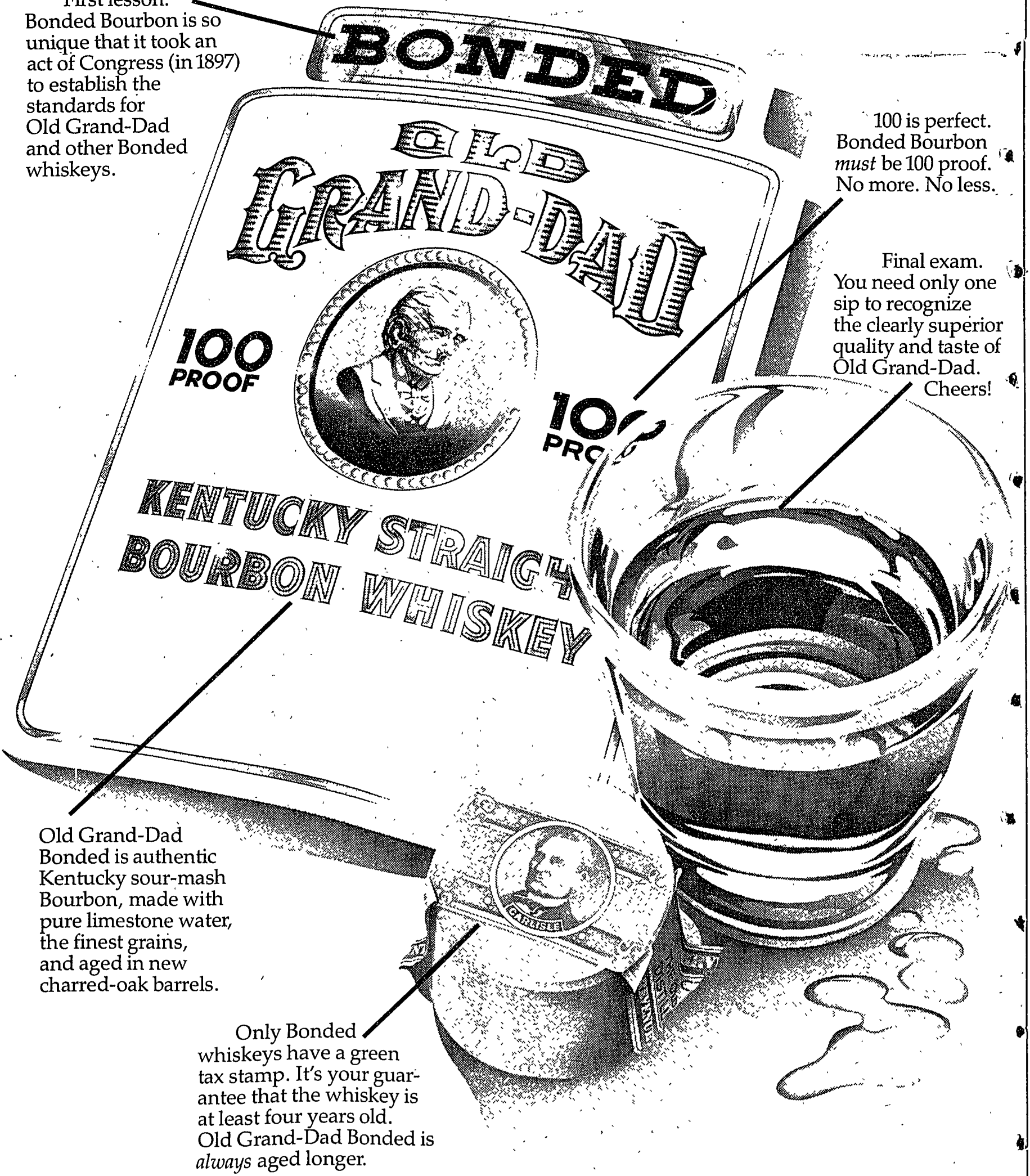
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