

### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

By Clinton Davidson

#### MISTER CONGRESS

Many great Americans have served in the Congress of the United States, but none with greater loyalty, dedication and distinction than Rep. Sam Rayburn, a man we are proud to have as a friend and fellow American.

To millions of Americans in and outside his district in Northeast Texas, most of whom have never seen him, he is Mister Congress. To his fellow congressmen and newsmen he is affectionately called Mr. Sam.

On the opening day of the present session of Congress the House passed to pay tribute, from both sides of the aisle, to a great American on his 78th birthday. The sincere admiration and affection expressed by his fellow congressmen brought lumps to the throats of spectators.

Mr. Sam, without doubt, has more friends and admirers in Congress than any other man. If he has a single enemy we have not, in more than 25 years observing and reporting Congress, seen a hint that such a man exists.

#### ON THE RECORD

The Congressional Record, which reports the activities of Congress, included on January 6 a statement of the remarkable record of achievement of Rep. Sam Rayburn from Bonham, Texas.

He has been a member of the House of Representatives for 47 years, longer than any other man since this democracy was born. He has been Speaker of the House in 17 of those years, longer than any man in history, and almost twice as long as Henry Clay.

The record of his legislative achievements would, if assembled, in one volume, make a good-sized book. The laws which he has personally sponsored affect the lives

of every American every day. Because he was born and reared on a farm and has lived all his life in a small town, he has had a close interest in legislation helpful to farmers and residents of small towns.

Some of the most notable legislation Rep. Rayburn has sponsored include the REA, which has brought electricity to almost every farm in the nation; the Farm-to-Market roads program; the SEC Act to protect the savings of millions of people who invest in stock and bonds; GI insurance and veterans disability payments; soil conservation and flood control measures to preserve our priceless national resources.

#### SAM RAYBURN, THE MAN

Little is generally known about Sam Rayburn, the man, because he has shunned personal publicity. He has never had a "publicity man" on his staff. He seldom makes a speech in Congress, and he has steadfastly refused to write the history of his eventful life.

Well, what kind of a human being is Sam Rayburn?

First, he is a simple, even old-fashioned man. He dresses conservatively, hates loud clothes, hats and ties. He is a bachelor, never having married. In Washington he has lived in the same, small, comfortable apartment for more than 30 years.

He has enjoyed an unusual robustness of health. He has never been in a hospital except to have his tonsils removed. He has never had a headache. He likes to walk at least two miles a day. He eats very temperately.

Rep. Rayburn is a man of unusual candor and straightforwardness, a fact that helps explain his reputation for being blunt. "Tell the truth and save the explanations for later," he says. Waste, whether it is time, words or money, pains him. "Be just—be fair," he tells people over and over.

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