The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
June 28, 1967

[No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—51


Montoya  Morse  Murphy  Muckle  Pastore  Pell  Pryor  Randolph  Randolph  Randol  Thurmond  Tower  Yarborough  Yarborough  Young, N. Dak.

Simonyi  Talmadge  Tydings  Williams, N.J.  Williams, Young, Ohio

NAYS—5

Dodd  Ribicoff  Tower

NOT VOTING—9

Inouye  Jordan, N. C.  Russell

So the resolution (S. Res. 117), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. LONGBORN of Louisiana, Mr. President, yesterday as shown on page 16986 of the Record, I obtained unanimous consent to have the record at this point a sampling of the news articles which caused Tom Dodd’s case to be tried in the press and which made impartial deliberation here impossible. I now submit a copy of those articles:

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 14, 1967]

THE GRACEFUL WAY OUT

The additional charges against Senator Dodd by four of his former employees are well known to the Senate Ethics Committee. In its long and careful consideration of the circumstances, the Committee has taken note of many documents and of much evidence that did not get into its public hearing. The Senate does not propose to expose the Committee’s recommendations, which are expected within the next two weeks, will be based on the whole gamut of Mr. Dodd’s conduct.

It is also clear that the evidence leaves Senator Dodd without a leg to stand on. Mr. Dodd himself admitted that he had accepted Wilson’s $170,000 from testimonial dinners from 1961 to 1965, to be used as he saw fit. His office sent bills for the same travel expenses to the Senate and the various private groups in seven instances. The picture presented in the current letter is one of repeated acceptance of money from people for whom the Senator was in a position to do official favors. It is charged, for example, that nine men whom he recommended for Federal appointments gave or lent him nearly $90,000.

Numerous aspects of the case point to the assumption that the findings of the Committee will be in consonance with the Senate’s decision to charge the Senator for possible presentation to a grand jury. But the public is more interested in what the response of the Senate itself will be. In its view, prospects of our ignoring practices which cut so deeply into the Senate’s integrity

So Senator Dodd, his best course would be to resign. Even without the latest charges, his usefulness was at an end. The least the Ethics Committee can do is to censure him, and the best service that a censured Senator can render to his state is to make his office available to someone who can function without so grave a handicap.

Of course, the Senate can always overrule the Ethics Committee, but the present climate, with no realistic support for the censure, makes such a move improbable. All indications are that Dodd will be free to run as a Democrat in the special election.

[From the Evening Star, Apr. 28, 1967]

THE DODD JUDGMENT

It is impossible to read the report of the Senate Ethics Committee without coming to the conclusion that Senator Dodd richly deserves the censure which his peers have unanimously recommended, and also deserves the responsibility for enforcing “possible violations of law” by Dodd to the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service.

No one can enjoy watching the ruin of a man’s career. This is especially true when, as in Dodd’s case, his fall from grace results in part from the secret yielding of his ties by former employees—conduct which the Committee described as “reprehensible,” and which also was referred to the Attorney General as a possible violation of law. When all is said, however, the fact remains that Senator DoddDiminishing his moral and private public reputation, of the Senate, his moral and private public principles, the sense of his own existence might lead him to universal contempt. He is a disgrace to the Senate. He is a liability to his State. He is an embarrassment to the Senate. He is an encumbrance to everyone who knows him. He is an embarrassment to himself.

If he stays in the Senate, his endurance will call for the worst possible senatorial behavior and no legislative measure. Whenever he rises to speak, his reputation will stand beside him, like Banquo’s ghost. The scandal that is his sponsor is a possible conflagration which will live in the constant terror that it will be overtaken by the fatal sin of his endurance.

What the Senate does with him or to him is now almost irrelevant. To every practical intent the seat he occupies is empty. Nothing the Senate does can put life back into a ghost and give it a new political living as though he had been overtaken by corporeal calamity. His daily presence in the Senate is a pain-inflicting spectacle. He stands in the way of the great, grand, and flawed in public life. The very sight of him must wound every man of serious and national concern. He is a spectacle to reflect upon the curious follies of our elective system.

The Senate alone can end this daily anguish which the citizenry must endure as long as he remains in public life. Let him have mercy upon himself, who is indeed in need of mercy. Let him have mercy upon his constituents, who have no mercy for him. Public act might be wakened to some mercy. Let him quietly take himself off the national stage and end a spectacle that is becoming an obscenity.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 18, 1967]

RISON

Senator Thomas J. Dodd has so diminished his power and influence by his private acts and public explanations of them that there is not much he can do for his country. There is one thing he can do, and he should not delay doing it until even that is beyond his reach.

His selfish exploitation of his friends to enhance his personal wealth, maintain his political place and enrich his private life, has led him to an extent that his own admissions entitle him to universal contempt. He is a disgrace to the Senate. He is a liability to his State. He is an embarrassment to the Senate. He is an encumbrance to everyone who knows him. He is an embarrassment to himself.