

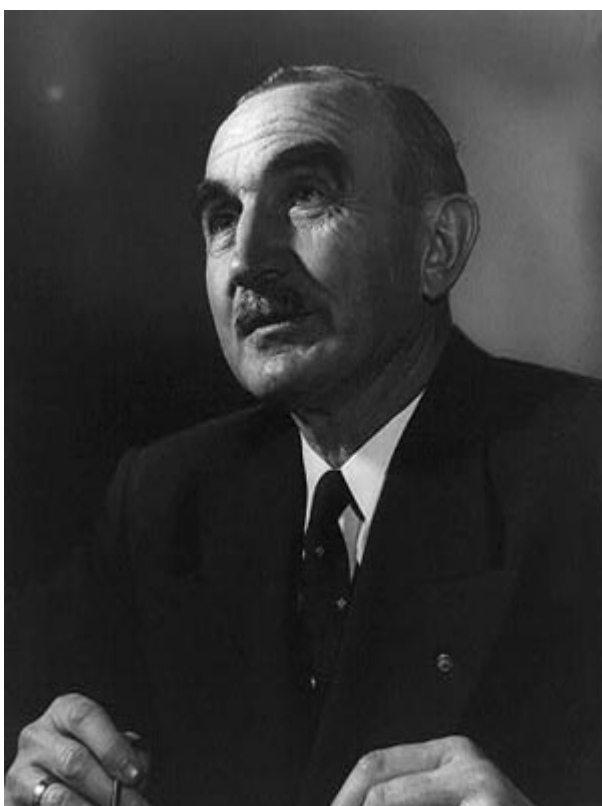


Huey P. Long of Louisiana only served in the United States Senate for four years, but his iconoclastic image left an indelible mark on the governing body. Among the many well-known moments in Long's brief Senate career is his filibuster in 1935.

Huey P. Long's 1935 Filibuster

Louisiana's Huey Pierce Long served in the United States Senate from 1932 until his assassination about 4 years later. During his short time in the Senate, he became known as the master of the filibuster.

On June 12, 1935, Long began his most famous filibuster to force the Senate leadership to retain a provision requiring Senate confirmation for the National Recovery Administration's senior employees. During 15 hours and 30 minutes of continuous speaking, Long read among many other items the Constitution and addressed questions from reporters in the gallery. Long finally left the floor at 4 in the morning, and his proposal was soon defeated.



Oregon's Wayne Morse spoke for more than 22 hours to

Wayne Morse's 1953 Filibuster

Known as the "Tiger of the Senate," Oregon's Wayne Morse was a member of both major political parties during his more than 20 years in the Senate. During the election of 1952, Morse broke ranks with the Republican Party when Presidential Candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower selected Richard Nixon as his running mate. In return, the party's leadership stripped Morse of his high profile committee assignments.

Against this backdrop, Morse gained the Senate floor in April 24, 1953, and began speaking to block tidelands oil legislation. After 22 hours and 26 minutes, Morse ended what had, up to that time, become the longest filibuster in Senate history.

block a vote on tidelands oil legislation.



In an attempt to block passage of the Civil Rights Bill of 1957, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina set the record for the longest filibuster in U.S. Senate history.

Strom Thurmond's 1957 Filibuster

Strom Thurmond became the oldest and longest-serving Senator in history, representing South Carolina virtually uninterrupted from 1954 until 2003.

He supported racial segregation with the longest filibuster ever on the Senate floor, speaking for 24 hours and 18 minutes in an unsuccessful attempt to derail the Civil Rights Act of 1957. He began by reading the entire text of each of the state's election laws. Armed with throat lozenges and malted milk tablets, Thurmond also read the Declaration of Independence and gave a history of Anglo-Saxon judicial systems.

As the hours passed, telegrams and phone calls began to pour in from constituents in southern states, encouraging other senators to help Thurmond in his effort. In the end, senators, even those who opposed the Civil Rights Act, turned against Thurmond, arguing that he was not helping their cause with his filibuster.

About two hours after Thurmond ceded the floor, the bill passed 62-15 and was soon signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.