

FLOOR

July 30, 1982

I sat in gallery taking notes as Senate ground to a halt. Baker said he was "disappointed" because he had expected amendments and votes on balanced budget amendment and there was no one there to offer any. Moynihan came in and gave a ~~stem~~ winding, hyperbolic, speech on economists who warned against Smoot Hawley tariff, as a result of which "men died, cities collapsed and civilizations disappeared" and he said the 500 or so economists similarly warned vs. balanced budget this week. He shouted, waved papers, lectured, postured. Not one reporter was in the press area. 2 people were in staff gallery (including me) one senator, watching over the Senate for the minority, Jim Exon, was sitting in the front seat. He never turned to look at Moynihan and paid no attention. Moynihan left by way of the well calling out to the presiding officer, 'remember Smoot Hawley.' and left. He thoroughly enjoys speaking like that.