

Republican Battle Looms Over Minority Leadership in House

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.) — A bone-shaking Republican battle in the House of Representatives over the minority leadership in the 84th Congress was touted today on the basis of reports that speaker Joseph W. Martin Jr. does not want the job.

Some of Martin's friends were organizing a campaign to keep Martin as party leader and to prevent that responsibility from going to Rep. Charles A. Halleck (R-Ind.) who they fear and suspect might be President Eisenhower's choice. They were confident Martin would continue, even if reluctantly.

Martin's retirement from the leadership, to become a less hurried elder statesman in the House, could not fail to boost Halleck toward the 84th Congress minority leadership. Halleck is majority leader under Martin's speakership in the expiring 83rd Congress.

Halleck succeeded Martin as floor leader when Republicans controlled the 80th Congress in which Martin served as speaker. When the Democrats took over in the 81st Congress, Martin reverted to the leadership, displacing Halleck.

Opposition To Halleck
One of the organizers of the Martin-for-leader movement told the United Press today that substantial opposition to Halleck has been developing.

"If Joe steps down now and Charley reaches for it, there will be a hell of a fight," a Congressman told the United Press. "A group of old timers in the House will insist that Joe take on the leadership in the next Congress. And when the chips are down, the 84th Congress leader will be Joe Martin."

Martin told this correspondent and others long before this month's congressional election that he was of a mind to shuck the Republican leadership of the

next House if his party failed to obtain a majority. He would have been pleased to continue as speaker. Martin was 70 years old Nov. 3. He isn't talking much, if any, for publication now.

His associates were confident today, however, that Martin would accept another two-year hitch as minority leader rather, as one of them said, than run out on his friends.

There was some House anxiety that Mr. Eisenhower might intervene in the dispute through some of his White House aides. Washington remarked during the first two years of the Eisenhower administration that Halleck appeared to be considerably

deeper within White House councils than Martin. The president never disguised his admiration for and confidence in Halleck.

White House intervention in the leadership matter would blow up as fine a row as this town has seen since 1937 when FDR beat Mississippi's conservative Pat Harrison for the Senate Democratic leadership with a timely letter addressed to "Dear Alben"—then Sen. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky. Barkley beat Harrison but by only a single vote, and the wounds of that contest along with resentment at Mr. Roosevelt's intervention long remained to plague the party.

Reclamation Speaker Sharply Criticizes Budget Reduction

Portland — (U.P.) — C. Petrus Peterson, president of the National association, yesterday sharply criticized the 65 per cent federal budget reduction for reclamation projects and asked for a "reappraisal" of our foreign aid program.

Peterson, speaking at the opening general session of the 23rd annual NRA convention here, said he "did not question our foreign aid program as such." But he said that the United States, between July, 1948, and June, 1953, spent \$1,729,123,000 on reclamation projects abroad. He compared this figure with some \$2,400,000,000 spent on reclamation in the U.S. the past 50 years, and demanded a "reappraisal" of the foreign aid program.

Peterson, of Lincoln, Neb., who is serving his third terms as NRA president, said he could not "with equanimity," accept the thesis that the reclamation budget reduction was justified. He urged the present administration to accept a "consistent" reclamation program, and said he had conferred with Presi-

dent Eisenhower toward that end.

McKay Speaks
Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay also addressed the 700 delegates from 17 Western states in the afternoon session. He reaffirmed his continued support of the Eisenhower "partnership" policy of developing water resources, with the emphasis on local financing.

"We cannot carry the tremendous defense expenditures of the moment and also at the same time sponsor all of the projects for water use and control which may be desirable," he said.

McKay said President Eisenhower had set up a cabinet committee on water resources policy headed by McKay and including the secretaries of defense and agriculture, and directed to lay out a national policy.

Peterson paid tribute to Robert W. Sawyer of Bend, Ore., as father of the National Reclamation congress, and praised Oregon for leaders it has contributed to reclamation.

McKay also said "some coastal cities" may be using desalted ocean brine to augment their domestic water supplies within the next few years.

McKay, revealing that the Interior Department has a project underway to convert salt water into usable fresh water, said: "While we are as yet a long way from any mass production process which could provide desalted water for industrial or agricultural use on an economically-feasible basis, it is not inconceivable that production of drinking water from sea water may become feasible."

Mitchell To Quit Demo Post Soon

New Orleans — (U.P.) — Democratic National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell said yesterday he would resign in time for the election of a new chairman at a "victory dinner" here Dec. 3-4 of party leaders.

Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana, James Finnegan of Philadelphia and Paul Butler of Indiana have been mentioned prominently as successors to Mitchell.

Mitchell said he felt the Democrats "are better than half-way back to the White House as a result of recent elections."

"The people in many congressional districts allowed President Eisenhower only to borrow some time. They're mad at the Republican party and they're disappointed."

The two-day meeting here will be climaxed with a banquet. Principal speaker will be Adlai Stevenson, defeated Democratic presidential candidate in 1952.

Permit Sought for Power Site Study

Portland — (U.P.) — The Pacific Northwest Power company today filed an application for a preliminary permit from the Federal Power commission to study the Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley power sites on the Snake river in Oregon and Washington.

If investigation of the 850,000-kilowatt development proves sound, the firm and its four sponsoring utilities would spend more than \$200,000,000 at the two sites, all of it private investment capital.

The four firms combined in the Northwest Power company are Pacific Power and Light and Portland General Electric company, Washington Water Power and Montana Power.

To Propose Tax Exemption Boost

Washington — (U.P.) — Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) said last night he will introduce a bill when the new Congress opens to increase personal income tax exemptions by at least \$100 per taxpayer.

Dingell, second ranking Democrat on the tax-framing House Ways and Means committee, said he also will urge repeal of the

law approved by the last Congress providing tax relief for persons who receive income from stock dividends.

He said he is confident that Chairman Jere Cooper (D-Tenn.) of the committee will approve his proposal.

"This move will be of immediate benefit to all the 70,000,000 income taxpayers and the 50,000,000 families in the country," Dingell said.

Salem — (U.P.) — Dr. K. J. Peterson, state veterinarian, said 286 cases of animal diseases were reported to him in October.

Tuesday, November 9, 1954

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Case's Opponent Won't Concede

Newark, N.J. — (U.P.) — Democrat Charles R. Howell refused to concede defeat today despite official figures confirming the election of Republican Clifford P. Case as U. S. senator.

Democrats continued efforts to get the ballots impounded in all 21 counties and two trouble shooters from the Democratic National Committee were expected to arrive from Washington to look over the situation

with a view toward a possible recount. Howell has said the national committee will help pay the price of a recount if one is sought.

A compilation of county totals gave Case 861,432 votes to Howell's 856,090, a plurality of 3,342 for Case.

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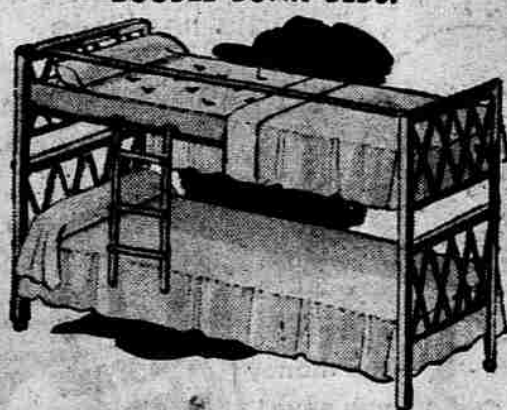
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