

Congressman Durno Comments On Political Life in Washington

Dr. Edwin R. Durno, Republican representative from Medford, commented briefly on political life in Washington, D. C., then charged President John F. Kennedy with trying to seize too much control of national affairs.

"If you were to follow the advice of Kennedy's administration—the precepts of the Democratic administration, those of the 12 disciples and apostles of administration and the 29 task forces you would have a great white father in Washington, D. C.," the freshman congressman declared.

"This man would tell you what to do in agriculture, education, health and welfare, and almost all fields, so all you would have left would be your basic freedoms."

Suggests Read Messages

"If you read the 10 or 11 messages Kennedy made to Congress you would know what I said was true," Durno added.

The new congressman said he was not instrumental in preventing the minimum wage bill from passing as charged by State Sen. Robert W. Straub, Lane county Democrat.

"It was not a question whether a man should receive \$1 an hour or \$1.25 an hour, but whether the federal government should step into retail and service establishments and tell us how to handle employees," Dr. Durno stressed.

"It was the question of whether the interstate concept of commerce and many other such concepts would be destroyed," he said.

Durno said he spent four hours Thursday night in Salem talking with Farm Bureau leaders on the proposed "do it yourself farm program" proposed by Kennedy. The Farm Bureau representatives thought Congress should have something to say about farm policy, he reported. They felt

such a program would create chaos.

When asked about farm policy at the beginning of his term, Durno admitted he knew nothing about it. One reporter said this was refreshing. "I feel somewhat the same presently," Dr. Durno remarked. "That pretty well states my position."

The congressman said Kennedy is still enjoying a honeymoon period. However, the opposition the president received from Congress was because many of the Democrats and Republicans thought alike, he explained.

Kennedy Succeeds

"Kennedy succeeded in tearing down the nation—in creating the impression that we were in a depression and not just a recession," Durno noted.

"He even convinced me that some anti-recession measures were necessary. I supported two of these measures, but I would not support the depressed area bill because we will always have areas facing chronic depression. To take business from one area to aid such areas is sheer piracy," Durno said.

The representative said, "We won the war, but spent \$80 billion in reconstructing factories in Germany and Japan using American ideas while we kept the old factories here. We send raw products and even partly completed products for manufacture in these plants by labor cheaper than ours."

Sees Lively Session

"As a result we lost millions of American hours of labor. The reciprocal trade agreement is due before Congress next year and I assure you it will be a lively session!"

He noted that Kennedy has been well received by Congress, otherwise. He described him as "very intelligent, very quick." Durno added that Kennedy has received excellent press coverage. "A large section of the press favors his liberal ideas," the congressman noted.

Unless the "cross-currents of private and parochial schools" subsidize the federal aid to education bill has "not a chance of passing," Durno warned.

The rules committee should not have been stacked merely because one member was outspoken about not liking Kennedy and the Democratic party. That member should have been given a new committee assignment. That is what happens on other committees,

Durno said.

Speaking on his own experiences, Durno said a freshman congressman is quietly given the idea he should grow but not swell. The new congressmen sit at either end of the horseshoe seating arrangement during committee sessions, and the veteran congressman sits in the center.

"Sometimes they work down to the ends of the horseshoe," the Medford Republican said. "It's very different from the state legislature, I feel they don't give opportunity to unusual talent."

The Republicans have 45 "very fine" new and old congressmen in Washington, D. C. It is interesting to note that the "wild-eyed" left-wing Democrats are no longer there, he added.

He described Charles Halleck (R-Ind.), majority leader of the House, as vigorous and active, and Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, minority leader, as articulate and fluent.

Philosophy the Same

Dr. Durno declared that his political philosophy remains the same. "All of the races, colors, creeds, ideologies, traditions, thoughts and ambi-

tions of all the people have been tightly compressed since the beginning of the machine age," he noted.

"This cold war is just as much a war as World War I and World War II ever were. The only difference is we are not losing the lives of so many American boys. We are in better shape militarily than ever before. Congress has given the president an economic weapon in the form of tariffs and import quotas. And this has caused lots of troubles in the domestic field," Durno said. "I never lie or slant anything and I'm too old to start."

I could never remember what I said each time," Durno concluded.

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