

'Old School' Southern Politician On Ballot for Election in Florida

Miami, Fla. — (UPI) — Not many "old school" southern politicians — they of the caricature face, stentorian voices and booming, polished phrases — are still around, but barring a GOP upset Florida will send one to Washington this fall.

He is former U. S. Senator Claude Pepper, who has all the traditional Dixie look and mannerisms but is a political paradox. Southern vote-getters almost always are staunch conservatives — Pepper is a forthright liberal and a New Dealer from way back.

He hedged not at all in the May Democratic primaries, where he defeated three opponents without a runoff, in declaring he will back the Kennedy administration's program down the line.

Born in Alabama and reared in Florida, Pepper is as southern as grits and red-eye gravy. His voice and gentlemanly manners give him the air of a movie version of an Old South plantation owner.

Faces Unknown
In the general election, Pepper faces Republican Robert A. Peterson of Miami Beach, a comparative political unknown. The race is in Florida's new Third Congressional District — the northern half of Dade (Miami) county — which was chosen from three possible districts by Pepper because it contains

a heavy registration of laborers and liberal-voting Miami Beach residents.

The winner will be one of four additional congressmen from Florida.

A return to Washington as a public servant should bring a flood of nostalgia to the sentimental Pepper. He's been yearning to make the step for 12 years.

For the 12 years before that, Pepper served in the Senate as the chief spokesman for the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Pepper's beloved FDR used him to launch the administration's trial balloons.

Loses To Smathers

In 1950, a young protégé, George A. Smathers, turned Pepper out of the Senate in one of the most bitter political battles in Florida's history. The memories lingered until 1958 when Pepper tried but failed to come close to unseating Florida's other senator, veteran conservative Spessard L. Holland.

The Pepper-Smathers enmity might create an awkward situation for President Kennedy. Smathers is a close friend of Kennedy.

But Smathers has opposed some of the President's prime objectives in Congress, such as the medical care program. Pepper may emerge as Kennedy's strongest backer in the Florida congressional delegation.

Elsewhere in the South the situation lines up like this:

Kentucky: A tip-top battle is shaping up between incumbent Sen. Thruston B. Morton, a 55-year-old Republican who is almost a prototype of the Eisenhower-Nixon Republican, and Wilson W. Wyatt, 57, who attaches himself firmly to the liberal, New Frontier wing of the Democratic party. Kentucky elects seven congressmen and chances are good that all or all but one of them will be Democrats.

Alabama: George C. Wallace, an avowed last-ditch segregationist, has an independent opponent, Frank Walls, for the governorship but will win overwhelmingly. The Democratic congressional delegation, with Rep. Frank Boykin eliminated in a primary runoff, is running at large rather than by districts because of court-ordered reapportionment difficulties. Three Republicans and a national states rights candidate

also are in the lists, but the eight incumbent Democratic congressmen are favored.

Georgia: Rep. James C. Davis of the metropolitan Atlanta 5th District was unseated in a hot primary contest by Democrat Charles Weltner, making his political debut. Weltner is favored over a Republican opponent, James O'Callaghan, in November. The only other congressional contest in the state is in the 7th District where Rep. John W. Davis faces Republican Ralph Ivey and is favored.

Florida: The Sunshine State will cast a larger shadow in Congress after this year's election, with four additional congressmen in token of its expanding population. Like Pepper, all of the Democratic candidates for the new seats have active Republican opponents, and the GOP is contesting all but two of the old Democratic seats. Likewise the one Republican incumbent, Rep. William C. Cramer, has Democratic opposition.

Mississippi: Only one contested race in the five congressional districts. Rep. Ar-

thur Winstead is challenged by independent Sterling Davis.

North Carolina: Six Republicans are challenging incumbent Democratic congressmen, and the Democrats have put Rep. Paul Kitchin, whose seat

went with reapportionment, into the 8th District fight against the state's lone incumbent Republican congressman, Rep. Charles R. Jonas.

South Carolina: The first big Republican push on a statewide level comes with a

challenge to Sen. Olin D. Johnson by Republican William D. Workan Jr., and a challenge to Democratic 2nd District congressional nominee Albert W. Watson from

Republican Floyd D. Spence. The latter two seek the seat

of the late John J. Riley, Democrat.

Tennessee: Frank Clement, one-time boy wonder governor of Tennessee, is seeking to return to the state house. A clear primary victory over two tough opponents puts him

in sight of the goal, if he defeats Republican Hubert Patty and an independent candidate in November, as he doubtless will. Democrats are challenging for the two traditionally Republican congressional seats in east Tennessee and

Republicans seek to unseat the Democrats in the state's other congressional districts.

Virginia: Four incumbent Democratic congressmen are unopposed. Republicans are challenging for four other Democratic seats and Democrats are trying to unseat the two Virginia GOP congressmen, J. T. Broyhill and Richard H. Poff.

Softwood Lumber Case Completed

Washington — (UPI) — The U. S. softwood lumber industry Thursday completed its case seeking higher tariffs and a 10 per cent import quota from Canada.

Witnesses for Canadian interest were to follow them to the stand on the third day of tariff commission hearings on Canada's softwood lumber sales in the United States.

E. C. Rettig, former executive vice president and general manager of Potlatch Forest Inc., of Lewiston, Idaho, appeared as the last key witness to give details of the U. S. industry's decline in output and employment.

Rettig, representing the Western Pine association, said output had dropped more than one billion board feet from the Western Pine region's peak of nearly 10 billion board feet in 1959. He said an estimated 8,700 jobs had been lost because of the decline.

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