

McKeldin's Absences

JULY 2 1966

Average a Day a Week

NEWS AMERICAN

By JERRY ADLER

Much-traveled Mayor McKeldin has served 1,116 days in office during this four-year term and has been out of (his) office an average of one day each week.

A News American survey disclosed yesterday that he has been away from Baltimore 147 days - about five months - since 1963 and is making ready for another three-week trip, this time to England, at the end this month.

In the fall, there is talk of a Hong Kong trip.

McKeldin's explanation of his wanderlust is that wherever he goes, he talks up Baltimore and thus helps the city draw industry, interest and visitors.

HE GENUINELY believes it is to the city's benefit that he goes far and wide giving speeches.

He points out that much of his travel is on weekends but candidly admits that he often gives private speeches, frequently for Israel bonds, at \$500 a throw.

Unhappy over McKeldin's many safaris is Comptroller Hymen Pressman, who is calling for the mayor's impeachment if he goes through with his July trip to the British Isles.

Pressman contends that with the Congress of Racial Equality in its summer campaign here, McKeldin's trek is "like desertion in the face of the enemy."

ASKED IF he might cancel his trip should CORE cause trouble, the mayor said, "No because I'm sure that those who will be here in my absence are eminently more qualified to handle any contingency than I."

Pressman for some time has had a convertible sign on his desk saying "Farewell, Mr. Mayor" on one side and "Welcome Home, Mr. Mayor" on the other. Now, however, Pressman says the mayor's travels are no longer a laughing matter.

The mayor has never thought his trips were humorous and he resents any comment that he should be on the job, all the time.

HIS MOST advertised trip was to the Far East, at the request of President Johnson, when he accompanied Vice President Humphrey on a Vietnam peace mission.

His longest leaves have been to Denver (six days) and Nassau (six days), both in 1963, to Toronto (seven days), Colorado Springs (six days), a Caribbean cruise (eight days), Europe (21 days), Far East (a week), Bermuda (six days) and four Saturdays plus several weekdays to attend the White House Conference on Civil Rights.