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AT his first press conference in Government House, Maryland's new Governor told of the need for additional State revenues.

William Preston Lane, Jr., had discussed the subject many times in his primary and general election campaigns.

But on the day of the press conference, time was important. The 1947 Legislature was in session. School, roads and hospital programs were being prepared for the postwar construction years even then at hand. The financing problem already was assigned to the Board of Revenue Estimates and an advisory committee of leading citizens.

A veteran reporter broke the silence that followed the Governor's exposition of the revenue needs.

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"There's only one answer," said the newsman, "—the retail sales tax."

Sales Tax Called Unpopular

"But," he added, significantly, "it would be very unpopular—in the beginning at least—with the voters."

Governor Lane frowned.

"Are you insinuating," he asked, "that I lack the courage to propose an unpopular tax if it is necessary, and if the Board of Revenue Estimates recommends it?"

The board did recommend it, and neither the reporter nor anyone else—regardless of what else may have been said about Pres Lane—has since questioned his courage.

There are those who say the legislative battle, which the Governor directed—even in the face of revolt by some of his leaders in both houses—ranks among the greatest in the history of Maryland.

Refused To Run At Convention

The revenue program was saved when its chances appeared darkest, and the State's greatest program of construction was launched—together with increased teachers' salaries, and a new schedule for distribution of State-collected revenues to counties, cities and towns to head off a threatened skyrocketing of local real-estate taxes.

Fifteen months later, Governor Lane, with his big State program, including the Bay Bridge, in mind, showed the same persistence at the Democratic National Convention when he steadfastly refused to be the nominee for Vice President of the United States—a designation which, it generally was agreed in high party circles, he could have had.

Those who know the Governor best say that aggressiveness and tenacity—some call it stubbornness—are two of his major attributes.

A third is his thoroughness in anything he undertakes.

Won Silver Star In World War

All three were demonstrated one dark night in France during the Meuse Argonne push of the Allied forces in the First World War.

The moving of increasing numbers of wounded men to hospitals behind the lines became an acute problem. The road back was partially destroyed and covered by intense enemy fire.

Young Capt. William Preston Lane, Jr., 115th Infantry, 29th Division, worked out the solution, led the rescue forces and guided them and their helpless burdens back to beds, surgery, medicine and hope.

With the award of the Silver Star, came the citation: "The courage, coolness and marked devotion to duty of Captain Lane greatly inspired the men with whom he served and doubtless saved the lives of many wounded men."



The pixyish Lane grin breaks through the cares of office. One of the Governor's pastimes is playing the piano.



His smile is an asset to Mr. McKeldin. He came up smiling from his defeat in the 1946 gubernatorial contest.

Both the military and political careers of Governor Lane began in his student days at the University of Virginia.

Joined National Guard Early

Picards for "Lane: The People's Choice" proclaimed the young student from Maryland a candidate for membership on the General Athletic Board. He won.

While still an undergraduate at Charlottesville, young Pres joined the Maryland National Guard, and was appointed captain and adjutant of his father's old regiment—the First Maryland—by Gov. Phillips Lee Goldsborough, on March 23, 1913, when he was 23 years old.

He had barely adjusted the swivel chair in his Hagerstown law office in 1916 when his regiment was ordered to the Mexican border.

The next year, the young lawyer and his guard unit were in the 29th Division. In 1918, they were fighting in France.

The Governor-to-be came out of the war a major, and commanded a National Guard battalion until 1924. In World War II, he helped his old buddy, Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord organize the State Guard and Minute Men.

Lost State's Attorney Race

In 1919, Major Lane was the Democratic candidate for State's attorney in his native Washington county. The Republicans had a registered majority of about 2,000, and the Democrat lost by 465 votes.

In that campaign, the youthful soldier, lawyer and budding politician met the successful Democratic nominee for Governor—Albert Cabell Ritchie.

When Dr. J. Hubert Wade, then Democratic leader in Washington county, came out against Governor Ritchie in 1923, Pres Lane formed, with marked success, a pro-Ritchie organization in the county, and later wrested control of the Democratic committee from Dr. Wade. The rising leader was elected attorney general on the Ritchie ticket in 1930, but did not seek a second term.

Returned To Business

He returned to his growing business interests in Hagerstown. Including his law practice,

publishing of two newspapers, a mining company and a bank, but he heeded the party call in 1940 to become Democratic National Committeeman—a post he still holds.

He successfully managed the Franklin D. Roosevelt presidential campaigns in Maryland in 1940 and 1944.

Despite his series of successes and his years of experience, the Governor's friends do not consider him a master politician. They sometimes despair over his forthrightness in the midst of a political battle when a little evasiveness might serve his cause better.

Drives Himself And His Aides

The success of his legislative programs is credited to his persistence, his administrative ability, and to the virtues of the programs themselves, rather than to political sagacity.

If the Governor drives his legislative aides and his governmental associates, he also drives himself.

The long hours of work have hidden much of Mr. Lane's lighter side. He has given up golf almost entirely. He likes traveling, but usually indulges in it only when required by official duties.

He enjoys evenings at home—particularly Sunday evenings when he can forego office work—with his wife, the former Dorothy Byron, of Hagerstown, and their daughter, Dorothy. He is happiest when his other daughter, Mrs. Stanhope Goddard, Jr., the former Jean Lane, also can be home.

He surprised the guests at a political gathering in South Baltimore recently by playing the piano, with considerable verve, and soon had a happy chorus of male voices singing to his accompaniment.

THAT was a good speech you just made," a woman told Theodore R. McKeldin at a 1943 political rally, "but I'm a Democrat and I'm going to vote for Howard Jackson."

"Of course you are," said the smiling Republican candidate. "I guess a lot of people will. That's a fine little boy you have there. It's too bad he has to be reared here in South Baltimore."

The woman bristled. "What's the matter with South Baltimore?" she demanded.

"Nothing—nothing at all," said Mr. Mc-



The Next Governor

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William Preston Lane, Jr.--OR--

Keldin. "You know I was born and brought up here myself. But today I met a man from the Green Spring Valley. He slapped me on the back and said: 'Ted, you've come a long way—born in South Baltimore and running for Mayor of Baltimore.'

"Yes," the candidate continued, "I guess that's as far as a South Baltimore boy can go—just running for Mayor. It would be too much to expect him to be elected."

"Let me tell you, mister," said the aroused South Baltimore woman, "my little boy will have as much right to run for Mayor as anyone else—yes, and be elected, too."

"You know," Mr. McKeldin said in recalling the incident after he was elected by the biggest majority ever given a Republican mayoralty candidate in Baltimore. "I have a feeling that I got that woman's vote."

The story is typical of Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin and his knack for turning a situation to an advantage, either for his own political aspirations or for a cause he is espousing.

Can Move Or Wait

If precipitate action appears to be the demanded course, he strikes immediately to accomplish his ends. If a waiting game is indicated, he can wait like a champion.

An incident in Baltimore's Pennsylvania Station during his term as Mayor—1943 to 1947—called for and received quick action.

Returning from a trip, the Mayor saw a woman struggling at train level with a suitcase and a rather plump baby.

"May I help?" he asked, offering to take the suitcase.

"You could be more help," the woman replied, "if you would carry the baby."

Always one to oblige, the Mayor took the baby.

Telephones Railroad Company

As they walked up the steep stairway, several persons walking down greeted them: "Hello, Mayor; how do you do, Mrs. McKeldin?"

Back at his office, the Mayor immediately got in touch with officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

He says the installation of an escalator in the station was the direct result.

But he proved himself a political master of the waiting game in winning his present nomination for Governor of Maryland.

In the pre-primary Republican maneuvering for party designation, Mr. McKeldin was the only calm person among high-ranking leaders.

"I am not a candidate," he replied to early inquiries, while as many as half a dozen likely or hopeful candidates scrambled for the friendly nod of this or that political leader.

To close friends and associates, Mr. McKeldin made it plain that he meant he was not a candidate at the moment—but that, he said, would not preclude his becoming a candidate later.

The hopefuls took him at his original word, and fought it out among themselves.

One by one they fell by the wayside as political balloons exploded at various altitudes of ascension.

When he actually filed, he had only one challenger for the nomination—State Senator Roy Tasco Davis, of Montgomery county. At a Republican get-together in Western Maryland, Senator Davis gave up and withdrew in the interest of party harmony.

Mr. McKeldin won without a primary.

His Third Try For Governorship

Twice before he ran for Governor. He lost by a comparatively narrow margin to the then incumbent, Herbert R. O'Connor, in 1922, and to the present Governor, William Preston Lane, Jr., in 1946.

Twice, too, he was a candidate for Mayor, losing to Howard W. Jackson in 1933, and winning by 20,000 votes in 1943 when Mr. Jackson was seeking his fifth term. Mr. McKeldin did not seek a second term.

Defeats left him undiscouraged. He never sulked.

Perhaps the high spot of his term as chief executive of the city was his administration's long and successful tax fight with the Baltimore Transit Company.

Wins Concessions And Peace

It culminated with an agreement under which the company paid the city \$2,650,000 during 1946 and 1947 in lieu of disputed taxes, and made other concessions which brought peace between the corporation and the municipality.



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-Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin

The revision of the city's ancient, and, in part, outmoded charter was accomplished in the McKeldin administration. A complete fire prevention code—the first in Baltimore's history, was adopted.

Although little new construction could be accomplished during the war, the McKeldin administration prepared for postwar times with major loans for the new Friendship International Airport, the new water supply tunnel, \$29,000,000 in school bonds, harbor improvements, recreation and park facilities. Plans were prepared for some projects before his term ended.

Oratory is among the McKeldin strong points. His speaking voice and delivery have served him well in political campaigns, and his out-of-state speaking engagements provide an important part of his income.

Was Secretary To Broening

In the successful William Broening mayoralty campaign of 1927, he talked himself into a job as secretary to the Mayor at the age of 26 years. He previously had worked for Baltimore banks, starting as an office boy, and getting his education in night schools.

He was graduated from the University of Maryland law school with the gold honor key award in 1925. A year earlier he had married Miss Honolulu Claire Menzer. They have two children, Teddy and Claire, either of whom can interrupt even an important conference by a telephone call or a visit to the McKeldin office.

At his home, 203 Paddington road, Mr. McKeldin collects rare books and art objects.

He attributes much of his political success to his keeping close to the voters.

He Sits "With The People"

An usher's error gave him an opportunity to parade his boasted common touch when he was considering the 1946 gubernatorial race.

As Mayor, he was escorted to a certain reserved box for a night ball game at the Baltimore Stadium.

When it was found that the same box had been assigned to a high State official, embarrassed and confused ushers sought to find another place of distinction for one or the other of the official parties.

"Don't bother, boys," said the smiling Mayor. "I'd rather sit down here with the people anyway."

The next day, one of Mayor McKeldin's prospective opponents remarked gloomily: "I wish I had said that."