

McKELDIN SEEN EYING MAYOR'S POST

Former GOP Governor Has Confided Ambition To Friends

By CHARLES WHITEFORD

The probable Republican candidate for Mayor in next Spring's city election: **Sun**

Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin.

The former Governor can have the GOP nomination without a major primary, if he wants it.

All indications are that Mr. McKeldin, who has been practicing law since he left the State House in 1959, wants it very much, as of now, at least.

He was Mayor of Baltimore from 1943 until 1947.

Close Career As Mayor

And he has been telling friends for a week, now, that his final political ambition is to wind up his public career as mayor of his native city.

City Republican leaders look their licks, along with their fellow GOP'ers in most sections of the State, in Tuesday's election.

Their one chance to breathe some life into the city Republican organization—bring a semblance of a two-party system to Baltimore—is to make a respectable showing in next May's election.

And they would gladly "take" Mr. McKeldin, the State party's best vote-getter, as head of the 1963 ticket.

Beaten By Grady

Mr. McKeldin, the only Republican in Maryland history to serve two terms as Governor, tried for Mayor when he left Annapolis, in 1959.

Governor Tawes had just buried James P. Devereux, his Republican opponent by a record-breaking 207,000 majority, much of which was rolled up in Baltimore, where he carried practically every precinct.

That did not daunt Mr. McKeldin, however, and he proceeded to make the biggest miscalculation of a long political career.

He had not figured on having as an opponent J. Harold Grady, at that time a bright, new face in the Democratic party, a man who captured the interest of the voting public.

And Mr. McKeldin took a licking in that election.

Since then, as it often happens when a colorful man like Mr. McKeldin leaves office, many have looked back on his years in public life with nostalgia. **Sun**

He backed away from a bid for the Republican nomination for Governor earlier this year. Many of his friends are convinced that he would have gone on to beat, or at least come close to beating, Governor Tawes last Tuesday if he had gone to the post.

And they have been telling Mr. McKeldin just that.

That, and prospects for another cat-and-dog Democratic primary campaign, plus the fact Mr. McKeldin has been promised adequate financial backing if he tries for mayor, have just about convinced him, the word is, that he has a good chance. **NOV 9 1962**

Has Until December 23

He has until December 23—final date for filing for the March 4 primary—to make up his mind.

The only other Republicans who have been mentioned as possible mayoral timber for 1963 are Gerald S. Wise, a prominent businessman, and W. Rae Dempsey, Jr., who managed Frank Small, Jr.'s, campaign for Governor.

Those behind the McKeldin boom say that neither would oppose the former governor, should he file for the nomination.