

George L. Radcliffe dies; former U.S. senator was 96

George L. Radcliffe, former United States Senator from Maryland, and surety company official who was active in civic and historic causes, died yesterday at Keswick after breaking his hip June 29.

Senator Radcliffe, who was 96, had recently been living with his son at 300 Club road.

He had been elected to the Senate in 1934 and was defeated in a primary campaign for a third term in 1916.

A member of the board of the Fidelity and Deposit Company, he had served as first vice president and chairman of the executive committee of the surety firm.

Friend of Roosevelt

At his death, he was chairman of the board of the Maryland Historical Society, which he had headed from 1937 until 1965.

A friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, since the days when they were both officials of the same surety firm, Mr. Radcliffe none the less opposed the President in his bids to pack the Supreme Court and to unseat the late Senator Millard E. Tydings.

In addition to other commit-



GEORGE L. RADCLIFFE
... former senator

tee posts, Senator Radcliffe headed the Merchant Marine Committee and was praised yesterday by Helen Delich Bentley, chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission.

She described him as the "chief architect and author of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, which still stands today as the keystone and foundation

upon which our maritime laws and our merchant marine function."

A native of Lloyds, in Dorchester county, Senator Radcliffe began his career as a teacher serving as principal of the Cambridge High School in 1900 and as a teacher at the Baltimore City College from 1901 to 1902. He was made an honorary member of the Class of 1905.

Doctorate from Hopkins

He obtained a doctorate of philosophy from the Johns Hopkins University in 1900 and a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1903.

That same year, he began working as a lawyer for the American Bonding Company and in 1913 became a vice president and director of the
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Radcliffe dies at 96

RADCLIFFE, from AI
Fidelity and Deposit Company after the two firms merged.

His first political post was appointive, receiving a post on the state liquor license board in 1916 and being named Secretary of State three years later.

He managed political campaigns for governors, presidents and congressmen, most recently serving in 1960 as a congressional campaign manager and as a committee head in the state in the presidential election.

In the late 1940's, he served on the city's airport commission.

In 1966, he said, speaking of the need for persuasion rather than force in government, "I deplore this tendency to pass a law about anything and then hit people over the head with it. After all, if you are going to do something, is it better to do it because you are afraid of being punished or because you think it's right?"

In addition to his offices in the Historical Society, which will be closed tomorrow because of his death, he had been active in other historic and preservationist causes.

In 1924, he served as chairman of the committee that preserved Baltimore's Shot Tower.

He had also headed the Grace Foundation which restored Grace Episcopal Church and the Chapel of Ease, on Taylors Island, and was a vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church, at Church Creek, and was active in its restoration.

In 1923, he was named president of the Eastern Shore Society.

From 1961 until 1965, he was chairman of the state's Civil War Centennial Commission. In 1961, he was appointed to the Maryland Historical Trust.

He had also been active in the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, beginning in 1934. He served as head of both the Baltimore and Maryland chapters and in 1953 was given its Award of Merit.

In 1962, he was named to the National Founders Board of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

He also was elected president of the University Club in 1953 and was cited in 1959 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

A runner on a team that won the Penn Relays while he was a Hopkins student, he still jogged on the roof of the Fidelity Building at the age of 80.

Other interests included a collection of books of Christmas lore and the farm at Loyds which had been in his family since 1663.

Two years ago, he was presented with a working replica of a windmill on the farm property, as a birthday present.

His wife, the former Mary Marriott, died in 1933.

He is survived by a son, George M. Radcliffe, of Baltimore, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Funeral services will be held at 10 A.M. tomorrow at the Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Incarnation, University parkway and St. Paul street, followed at 1 P.M. by graveside services at the Cambridge Cemetery, in Cambridge, Md.