

# Grady Passes His Midterm With Many Crises Looming Sun

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The Administration of Mayor Grady passed its midpoint last week with its future even cloudier than is usual in the last half of an elected regime.

Uncertainty over the Mayor's personal future, an aggravated state of political instability in and around City Hall and the imminence of the annual budget crisis made the second anniversary of his inauguration Friday hardly a day of jubilation.

## Areas Marked "Unknown"

Many administrations at all levels of government find things more difficult as the next election becomes closer in time than the last one.

For the Grady Administration the course, through the political seas is charted with more areas marked "unknown" than face most governmental navigators.

Most prominent and most significant among the uncertainties is Mr. Grady's tenure in office. While there is no longer room for doubt about his candidacy for a Federal judgeship, there is not yet any evidence the appointment is in the offing.

But the resulting intense back-room jockeying for position among local politicians—elements of which have come to public view—has aggravated the basic lack of political cohesion which has characterized this Administration.

From the start the pro-Administration coalition in the City Council has been an inherently unstable alliance depending for crucial votes on hostile elements who have entered into a truce, not an armistice.

## Shift Without His Knowing

Evidence that the coalition is unlikely to withstand strong political stress for long came several weeks ago when a patronage shift in the Council stemming from the jockeying was accomplished without the Mayor's knowledge but with the aid of councilmen thought to be safely in his camp.

The strains brought on by the possibility Mr. Grady might vacate his office for the bench have also heightened the discord among the Mayor and his running mates, Philip H. Goodman, the Council president, and Dr. R. Walter Graham, Jr., comptroller.

Mr. Goodman, who would succeed to the mayoralty, has maintained public silence at this crucial hour but his antipathy for Mr. Grady and Dr. Graham has been obvious to those who see him regularly.

Dr. Graham has openly criticized the Mayor again and privately vented his spleen against Mr. Goodman. It is clear a major reason for his opposition to a judicial appointment for Mr. Grady is his objection to Mr. Goodman as a potential mayor.

## Rejoinders In Low Key

For his part Mr. Grady has kept his rejoinders to Dr. Graham and his expressions of displeasure with Mr. Goodman in low key. But differences in temperament rather than in intensity of feeling account for this.

Impending elections always inject a note of uncertainty into political alliances. Mr. Goodman's clear desire to be a candidate for mayor in 1963, whatever Mr. Grady's fate in the interim, intensifies that factor as far as contemporary city politics is concerned.

Another element in the uncertainty revolves around the State elections which will precede the city campaign by six months.

Unless Governor Tawes, as a candidate for reelection, manages to force warring Democratic factions into another "harmony" ticket down the line, several key Administration supporters ambitious for a move to Annapolis may find it advantageous to choose up new sides which would alter their local loyalties.

Since the State primary is only a year away, the forging of new political alignments could begin developing this fall.

In the administrative sphere of city government as well as in the political, rough days lie ahead for the 2-year-old Administration.

Repetition of the budget crises which have marked each autumn for the past half-dozen years impends again. In preparing a budget for 1962 the Administration will be faced with a need for some \$6,000,000 in new revenues and a depleted list of sources from which to glean them.

Even talk about a metropolitan earnings tax is out of the question this year. The State Legislature has adjourned without giving the Mayor the authority he requested to impose one and cannot even consider it again in time to help

without a reversal of Governor Tawes's position.

Thus, whatever new income is to be used in financing budget growth—about \$10,000,000 a year even under "austerity" conditions—must come from the property tax or from another collection of nuisance levies already within the city's taxing power.

City administrations have been chipping away at the list of available local tax sources for several years. Even with a substantial infusion of State aid the Grady Administration had to resort to them last fall.

Increased payments due in 1962 from State programs inaugurated this year will be offset by the

figurative repayment of some emergency aid in the form of advance remittal of funds the city would have gotten anyway.