

Grady Due U.S. Judgeship? City Politicians In Turmoil

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Persistent, rapidly spreading reports that Mayor Grady is being considered for a Federal judgeship have city politicians in a turmoil and Baltimore legislators at the General Assembly session in Annapolis agog.

The Mayor, himself, denies all knowledge of how the reports got their start. He says he has spoken to no one in authority in Washington about the possibility. But he has not closed the door to acceptance of a lifetime seat on the Federal bench should he be offered one by the Kennedy Administration.

"First And Only Concern"

When asked yesterday for the dozenth time about it, the Mayor, as he has regularly for the last few weeks, replied:

"As an attorney, it's always very gratifying to hear your name discussed. However, the many responsibilities of the Mayor's office are my first and only concern."

Whether they are based on fact or the Machievellian imagination of someone out to hurt the Grady Administration, the reports are nevertheless threatening to affect the workings of the city government.

Democrats with influence are already talking about a new city Council lineup should Mayor Grady resign and Philip H. Goodman, president of the City Council, take his place.

City officials who owe their jobs to Mr. Grady are getting skittish, worrying whether their places—or at least, prestige—are secure.

Feeling Of Unsureness

In short, there is a feeling of unsureness at City Hall as to what tomorrow will bring.

Both Mayor Grady and Mr. Goodman were early supporters of John F. Kennedy's successful bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination and each worked hard for him in the general election campaign.

A Kennedy Administration bill which looks like it will be zipped through through the Congress within a short time provides for numerous additional judgeships, including two for Maryland and two for the Federal Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, in which Maryland is included.

Piece Of Patronage

The totally unverified reports have it that the Kennedy Administration is looking toward one of the two Maryland judgeships as a means of rewarding two of its friends through one piece of patronage.

In other words, Mr. Grady would get a well-paying post on the Federal bench and Mr. Goodman would step into a spot he has had his eye on for years—Mayor of his city.

Mr. Grady's term will expire in May, 1963.

Some Baltimore Democrats would move heaven and earth, if they could, to keep Mr. Goodman from becoming Mayor. Others would like to see it, and are ready and waiting to deal with him.

Others Mentioned

Numerous other Maryland lawyers are being spoken of as potential Federal judges. They include:

Judge Anselm Sodaro of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, who, like Mr. Grady, is a former State's attorney.

John Henry Lewin, of Baltimore.

William J. McWilliams, a former judge of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

H. Vernon Eney, a Baltimore lawyer whose name has been mentioned many times in connection with the bench by his fellow members of the bar.

Smith And Frank

Michael Paul Smith, a former judge of the Baltimore County Circuit Court.

Eli Frank, Jr., a Baltimore lawyer whose late father was a judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore.

Eli Baer, also of Baltimore.

Mayor Grady's name also cropped up last year in speculation as to whom is in line for at least four Supreme Bench of Baltimore appointments Governor Tawes is due to make before his term expires in 1963. That many judges will have to retire in the months ahead as they reach the statutory age of 70.

The Mayor brushed off those reports. But he did say a few months ago that he is seriously considering a run next year for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate that will be up for grabs in the primary election.

Those reports, however, were nowhere near as persistent as those now bouncing around in connection with the Federal judgeship.

Incidentally, Mr. Goodman, like Mr. Grady, avows he has no knowledge of the source of the report.