

## **Crowd of Aspirants**

# **Sasscer Jr. Joins Race For Rep. Lankford Seat**

By Wendell P. Bradley

Staff Reporter

Prince Georges County politics—high, wide and handsome as always—took on the elements of a first-rate mystery play with the announcement yesterday by Lansdale G. Sasscer Jr. that he may be a candidate for Congress.

Sasscer's hat sailed into a ring already crowded with the headgear of almost every major Democrat in the county, seeking the seat of Rep. Richard E. Lankford (D-Md.), who has asked for an appointment as an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

No one is waiting to see if Lankford gets the job and resigns from Congress. But perhaps more significant, no one waited to ask Lansdale G. Sasscer Sr. before announcing his candidacy.

The elder Sasscer has ruled the political roost in Prince Georges County for decades and long has nursed the ambi-

tion that his son take over the Fifth District Congressional seat which he once held.

Young Sasscer made known his availability yesterday after six leading county Democrats expressed strong interest in Lankford's not-yet-vacated Congressional seat.

"I'm interested," said Sasscer, who now serves as chairman of the County's legislative delegation to the Legislature.

Other hopefuls are: Herbert W. Reichelt, vice president of the County Commissioners; Del. Hervey G. Machen, House of Delegates Speaker Perry O. Wilkinson; Del. Carlton R. Sickles; College Park businessman Walter L. Green and Oscar Duley, leader of an insurgent Democratic faction in the 1956 Congressional election.

Meanwhile there was no official word yesterday on Lankford's prospects for getting the Navy Department post.