

# Governor Sets Record For Speeches, Degrees

Eve Sun 6-15-57

Whatever else happens in the reign of Governor McKeldin, he can already lay claim to two records: **Eve Sun**

1. In the last nine days he has picked up five honorary degrees as doctor of laws.

2. In the past six months he has made more than 50 speeches.

His performance as an honorary degree man: Washington College.

June 3; Morgan State College.

June 4; University of Maryland.

June 9; Beaver College, Jenkin-

town, Pa., June 10, and Hanover

(Ind.) College, June 11.

Despite interference from a leg-

islative session, the Governor, one

of whose hobbies is oratory, has ap-

peared more than 50 times within

the State, before clubs, civic groups,

colleges and churches. This total

does not include occasional out-of-

State forays. **JUN 15 1951**

Many Requests Declined

And the Governor says that he

has turned down about 25 times as

many speaking invitations as he

accepted.

"I actually need one secretary

just to take care of the invitations

to make addresses," he said.

The Governor's speech-making

did not actually get off to a good

start until February 1 because as

newly inaugurated executive there

was considerable to do right around

the State House. He did, nonethe-

less, manage to work in four ad-

resses during January, beginning

with the March of Dimes campaign.

In February, however, he found

time to make about a dozen talks

in various parts of the State, as

well as one at Valley Forge.

Lull, Then Speedup

During March the pressure of

business of the General Assembly

once more cut into his activities,

and the Governor reports having

spoken only four times, with no

speeches after the middle of the

month.

But by early April the addresses

were again in full swing and the

easy McKeldin oratory was heard

by clubs, colleges and churches

from the Eastern Shore to West-

ern and Southern Maryland at

two to four-day intervals.

May and June have been par-

ticularly busy months. There have

been memorial services, commence-

ments and an assortment of other

functions. The Governor's engage-

ments have taken him into Garrett,

St. Marys, Montgomery, Washing-

ton, Prince Georges, Frederick,

Kent, Baltimore and Allegany coun-

ties, in addition to speeches here.

Spoke At Gettysburg

Among the out-of-State speaking

trips was one to make a Memorial

Day address on the battlefield at

Gettysburg, trips to Pennsylvania

and Indiana, where colleges be-

stowed honorary degrees, and to

New York.

On one Sunday in May, the Gov-

ernor, who has spoken at churches

of practically every faith, delivered

talks at three consecutive services

at a Methodist Church in Hyatts-

ville.

Governor McKeldin is especially

proud of the fact that one of his

talks, made at the dedication of the

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's new

pier, was reprinted in the *Congres-*

*sional Record*. He also got a thrill

out of speaking at Gettysburg be-  
cause Lincoln also spoke there.

No Fees in State

The Governor says he will accept

no fee for speeches within the

State, but he does accept them

when he is on "foreign" soil. He

is a bit cagy about his rates, but a

secretary says they run from \$100

upward. At least once, before he

became Governor, he received \$500

for a speech.

The Governor cited one example

of his refusal to accept fees within

Maryland, by recalling an invita-

tion to speak at an Easton church,

which insisted on paying \$100 for

an address.

Because of the determination of

the churchmen, the Governor com-

promised. He accepted the check,

but had it made out to the West-

minster Theological Seminary, to

"help some poor boy get an edu-

cation."