

All Stops Out, McKeldin's Vocal Organ Blasts 'Potomac Potentates'

Drooping GOP Rally In New York Peps Up As Governor Predicts End Of 'Mink Dynasty'

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New York, Feb. 12—Governor McKeldin tonight pulled all the stops on his rhetorical organ to captivate a ballroom full of fidgeting Republicans and flay the Truman Administration for "extravagance, waste, mismanagement, corruption, special privilege, graft and senile diplomacy."

Delivering the main address before the annual Lincoln Day dinner of the National Republican Club, Maryland's chief executive concentrated his verbal fortissimo on Government corruption.

He also went far enough in indorsement of foreign assistance to suggest to the Eisenhower faction of the party that he is an internationalist—without going so far as to make his stand repugnant to the Taft faction. FEB 13 1952

Wooed By Both Factions

The political importance of remaining uncommitted to either faction could be seen today in the jockeying of pro-Eisenhower and pro-Taft forces for his favor.

His appearance as chief speaker at the Lincoln Day dinner indicated an attempt by pro-Eisenhower forces to woo him.

The dinner arrangements were handled by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, who is in the Eisenhower camp, and the speaker who seconded Governor McKeldin was New York's Senator Irving M. Ives, who made a speech that just missed

being an outright attack on Senator Taft.

Earlier in the day, the Maryland Governor lunched with former President Herbert Hoover, then went to Gen. Douglas MacArthur's suite in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where they talked for 2½ hours. Both General MacArthur and Mr. Hoover now appear to be pushing Senator Taft's candidacy.

The McKeldin speech tonight, delivered in the opulent Waldorf ballroom, steered a reasonably safe middle course through the political controversy that divides Taft and Eisenhower forces.

At the same time its rhetorical acrobatics came close to electrifying an audience that was visibly drooping when he rose to speak.

Senator Ives' speech had left the diners unmoved. Then Govern-



En Route to New York—The sign appeared, then disappeared.

nor Dewey, called upon to kill time until a radio broadcast of the McKeldin speech was due to begin, spent 30 minutes in a rambling discussion of Asiatic misunderstanding of the United States.

The audience, to whom the McKeldin name meant virtually nothing, heaved a collective sigh when Maryland's orator took the platform. The next moment they were swept away in words.

"This," declared Governor McKeldin, "is the last year of the mink dynasty in Washington."

"The plundering potentates of the Potomac and the pusillanimous parasites of the palace guard are having their last ride on the merry-go-round of privilege and pelf."

His voice boomed to a surflike roar, then died to a whisper; speeded to freight-train pace, then slowed to a tantalizing drawl.

At one moment he spoke with a Scotch brogue; at another, in a Southern accent.

Occasionally, when audience interest threatened to lag, he departed from his prepared speech and gave little bits of Maryland history, a Jewish parable, an account of his family's role in the Civil War, a sentimental story about a shoe-shine boy in Mexico and a boisterous account of his walkout from the last Southern Governors Conference.

Almost Verbal Symphony
At times it was almost a verbal symphony.

After ripping into the Truman Administration, he said:

"We aim at no actual reduction in our real military strength at home or abroad. Indeed, we have reason to believe that with proper management the development of that strength can be expedited."

"But we can with honesty of purpose and sincere patriotism question the wisdom of taxing and appropriating far in advance of our ability to obtain war materials and build up our forces."

Backs Military Aid

He praised economic and military aid to foreign nations and called upon Republicans to continue to support this program. He insisted, however, that the recipient nations "must demonstrate a will to freedom."

About 125 Marylanders who had made the trip to New York especially to hear the speech were in the audience.

At the end of his 40-minute address Governor McKeldin set forth a list of suggestions for a Republican platform in the coming election.

Five-Point Platform

The five-point platform suggested by Governor McKeldin contained these planks:

1. FOREIGN RELATIONS—Re-establish and reassert United States determination to have respect from the other nations of the world.

2. DOMESTIC POLICY—Strict economy in Government agencies; adoption of the Hoover Commission reorganization recommendations; a balanced budget; elimination of graft, corruption and special privilege from government.

3. RELATIONS WITH STATES—Gradual return of as much local autonomy to states as possible; "no further infringements on states' rights under the guise of paternalism."

4. AGRICULTURE—A farm program worked out with "successful workers of the land," stressing improvement of farms and farming, with states and counties managing the program.

5. LABOR AND CAPITAL—Gradual reduction of controls over each, "but always with the public interest in mind, particularly . . . with respect to interstate public utilities where operations stoppages might endanger lives and health of the people."

To attend the McKeldin debut into the national political limelight, Maryland Republican camp followers and functionaries trailed the Governor to the big city aboard three special railroad cars provided by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The party left Mount Royal Station at 1:45 P.M. under the guidance of Joseph L. Carter, chairman of the State Central Committee and longtime friend of the Governor.

The mood at departure was one of self-conscious solemnity. The general feeling of self-consciousness was heightened when, just before the train left, somebody began passing out artificial black-eyed susans with instructions that they were to be prominently displayed.

Holes In His Sock

The great period of time that has passed since Maryland Republicans were deemed worth hustling off to a political pow-wow of national significance was reflected around the ankles of one of the more distinguished members of the party.

One of his socks had three small holes over the heel.

Once out of Mount Royal, a large percentage of the party filed to the diner to insulate Republican self-confidence with strong drink—a form of insulation, incidentally, in which the Governor does not indulge.

By the time the train neared Wilmington, Sam Culotta, who works in the Governor's Baltimore office, had broken out a painted sign calling for "Maryland's McKeldin for President."

Lyric Is Discarded

This was discarded after photographers left the train, and with it went all serious discussion of McKeldin and the White House.

The feeling that something big was in the air, but too taboo for discussion, nevertheless prevailed. A lusty, if inartistic attempt to add to it was made outside of Philadelphia by Secretary of State John Reeve, who passed out mimeographed lyrics praising McKeldin's virtues of leadership.

It was designed to be sung to the melody of "Maryland, My Maryland," and one verse proclaimed:

McKeldin, McKeldin.
Remember he has got the way
Corruption's ugly ghost to lay,
And with him we are sure to stay.
McKeldin, McKeldin.

A few desultory voices braved the first two verses, but died away before assailing "corruption's ugly ghost."

(over)

Laupheimer Predicts

When lethargy threatened to bog the party between Philadelphia and Jersey City, David Laupheimer, one of the Governor's most faithful followers, took the lull to discuss presidential candidates.

Did Mr. Laupheimer think McKeldin could be a Republican candidate for the presidency?

"I'm not foolish," scoffed Mr. Laupheimer, a man who has attended every national Republican convention since 1916.

He then predicted a convention stalemated between Eisenhower and Taft backers, with General MacArthur — "dominating the scene"—finally naming the Republican candidate.

"Unforeseen Dark Horse"

And who will that candidate be?

"It will," pronounced Mr. Laupheimer, "be either himself (General MacArthur) or some unforeseen dark horse."

Members of the party who arrived at the Waldorf Astoria at 5.50 P.M. with the prospect of taking a midnight train back to Baltimore, included:

Max Israelson, Stanley Scherr and Harry L. Katz, Traffic Court magistrates; Neil G. Fraley and Dale Adkins, State legislators; Bertha Adkins, Republican National committeewoman; A. Earle Shipley, parole commissioner, and Thomas B. R. Mudd, commissioner of motor vehicles.