

McKeldin, Still Growing At 50, Cheerfully Sees Pay Shrinking

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By MARJORIE MATHIS

Today, on his fiftieth birthday, Governor-elect McKeldin is undismayed by the fact that his salary for the next four years will be about \$2,500 less than he was earning at 27.

At that point in his political-legal career, Mr. McKeldin was being paid \$3,500 annually as secretary to former Mayor Broening and was earning approximately the same amount in private law practice.

When he begins his term as Governor of Maryland in January, his yearly compensation—in money—will be \$4,500.

To that will be added other substantial benefits, however, and Mr. McKeldin yesterday faced personal budgetary considerations with calm confidence.

Heard Of Expense Account

He confessed yesterday that he knows only by hearsay about an expense allowance which he thinks amounts to some \$70,000 a year.

"I've been stupid about this," he said. "I just haven't looked into it in detail, although I did talk briefly to Governor Lane and former Governor O'Connor on the subject."

But there is nothing indefinite about the home, servants, food and automobile which will be provided him while he and Mrs. McKeldin and their two children live in the Governor's mansion in Annapolis.

Furthermore, Mr. McKeldin recalled, "the people of Maryland are very generous."

He came to know that generosity before the November 7 election enlarged his political achievements, the Governor-elect said, declaring that for years he has not been allowed to buy a hat for himself and that many other things have been added unto him.

"A governor should not go around hat-in-hand," he said, "but the people are, I repeat, very generous."

And Mr. McKeldin is not overlooking the fact that "even as plain T. R. McKeldin" he was able to command as much as \$500 for one of the famous McKeldin public addresses.

"I don't want to overdo the matter of public speaking," he commented, "still, that is one of my principal assets, and as Governor I may find wider opportunities."

Coauthor Of Book

Incidentally, he added, he is the coauthor of a book on public speaking which he thinks is about to be published. Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., professor and head of the Department of Pharmacology of the University of Maryland Medical School, was the collaborator.

The book will contain 24 samples of the McKeldin oratory and 25 of the speeches of Dr. Krantz, with a foreword by Lowell Thomas.

The McKeldin children, Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, Jr., 13, and Clara, 11, will continue to attend private schools in Baltimore after the family moves to Annapolis, their father said, still thinking of family fiscal affairs.

The tuition and personal insurance policies will make a dent in the \$4,500 annual salary, he admitted, and there will be the loss of an estimated \$15,000 yearly income from his private business.

Offsetting these considerations are the reduction in all other expenses, the sale of the home at 203 Paddington road, and resulting cuts in insurance and taxes.

But Mr. McKeldin has a deeper, more basic reason for confidence about personal money matters.

"I am a Scot," he declared, "very frugal and thrifty. I still have my first nickel."

To Attend Conference

Moving, he admitted, will be a "terrific" job, especially since he alone will handle a collection of approximately 100 delicate figurines which adorn the home.

"The salary isn't enough," he commented, "but I ran for the office knowing that, and I am not complaining. I don't expect to make money as Governor, but neither do I expect to lose."

Far from complaining, the Governor-elect was counting his blessings yesterday.

One of them was an invitation from Governor Thurman to attend the Southern Governors' Conference next Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. He will accept.

Commencement Address

Another was an invitation to make the commencement address at Beaver College, a girls' school near Philadelphia, next June, receiving at the same time an honorary degree. He will accept.

Yet another was his thirteenth annual visit to the Evangelical and Reformed United Brethren Church in Glen Rock, Pa., yesterday.

"They thought I wouldn't make it," he said, "but I left Hot Springs early so as not to miss the occasion."

Maryland's next Governor wasn't worrying about reaching the half-century mark on his birthday today.

He had an axiom for it:

"You don't grow old. You get old when you stop growing."

Mr. McKeldin doesn't remember whether he read that one or just thought it up himself.

"I read so much that I am not always sure whether a quotation is my own or from a book," he admitted.