

# MCKELDIN WILL RUN FOR MAYOR'S POST

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EX - Governor ISSUES

## Announcement After Committee Action

BY CHARLES WHITEFORD

Former Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin last night formally announced he will run for the Republican nomination for mayor in the March 5 primary election.

His running mates, he said, will be Robert J. Gerstung, a lawyer, for the City Council presidency, and W. Rae Dempsey, Jr., former GOP city committee chairman, for city comptroller.

Mr. McKeldin, who was governor from 1951 until 1959, was asked Thursday night by the Republican City Committee to make the run.

He was mayor from 1943 until 1947—and he has always said that those four years were as intriguing and challenging as any he has lived through.

### "Interest Has Not Waned"

Mr. McKeldin's friends let it be known weeks ago that he was contemplating another bid for election.

But it was not until last night that he announced his decision.

"In the years when I was governor of Maryland, my interest in the well-being of Baltimore city and its people did not diminish among the broader concerns that then required my attention," he said in a formal statement.

"In the years since I was Governor, that interest has not waned.

"On the contrary, it has increased with the rising evidence of the growing demands that are made by modern urban living on the great cities of today.

"These are demands that must be met by prompt and deliberate action.

### "Strenuous Campaign"

"The start that is being made in downtown renewal barely scratches the surface of what must be done in the future against which we even now are pressing."

Mr. McKeldin expressed gratification at the action of the city committee.

"I am equally gratified," he went on, "by the urgings of many other citizens — Republicans and Democrats — that I enter the list of candidates.

"I am, therefore, a candidate for Mayor of Baltimore.

"I pledge to my running mates, Robert J. Gerstung and W. Rae Dempsey, Jr., and to my fellow Republicans a strenuous campaign in which the many important issues will be stressed and to my fellow citizens regardless of party, I promise that my election — if that be their will — will signal the start of a new vitality and a revival of that vitality which is the hallmark of the American two-party system."

Mr. McKeldin has until Wednesday night to file formally.

### One Other GOP Candidate

The only other Republican who has filed for the mayoral nomination to date is Samuel A. Culotta, a former member of the House of Delegates.

Ironically, Mr. Culotta is a former protege of Mr. McKeldin's. He was one of his aides during his first term as governor.

"We will carry the case for the Republican party and for the city of Baltimore to the people. I'm in the fight to the end," said Mr. Culotta when he learned of the McKeldin announcement.

### Talked Of Running

Mr. Dempsey, too, had been talking about opposing Mr. McKeldin for the mayoral nomination. Now, however, he has settled for being one of his running mates.

Mr. Gerstung, who was the party's candidate for the Third Congressional district seat in the 1960 election, is considered to be one of the GOP's up-and-comers.