

BYRD CHARGES BRIBERY, SAYS \$8,000 WAS ASKED; 'LYING,' RIVAL REPLIES

Last - Minute Accusation Made On TV;
McKeldin Describes Move As 'Desperate
Attempt To Stave Off Defeat He Faces'

Baltimore's 531 polling places will open at 6 A.M. tomorrow and voting will continue until 7 P.M. Those in line at the closing hour will be allowed to enter the voting machines.

Polling places in all counties except Talbot will be open from 7 A.M. until 7 P.M. In Talbot county, voting starts at 8 A.M. and ends at 7 P.M.

Byrd

By CHARLES G. WHITEFORD

Dr. H. C. Byrd last night threw into the gubernatorial fight a last-minute charge of bribery in the Republican administration.

The Democratic candidate for governor, appearing on a televised campaign question-and-answer show, charged:

A business man had told him that his group was interested in getting a bill having to do with the State roads signed by the Governor, and a committee of the association to which he belonged called on Governor **McKeldin**.

\$8,000 Mentioned

The Governor said he could not sign the bill, because "his entire State Roads Commission" was against it. But Mr. **McKeldin** added that if an amendment incorporating terms of the bill were tacked onto the twelve-year highways-improvement measure under consideration by the General Assembly, he would have to sign it.

So the amendment was prepared and sent to Annapolis.

The next day, the business man got a call from Annapolis and was told he would have to have "\$8,000 down here tonight if you get the amendment."

The man asked:

"Who's going to get the money,? (Dr. Byrd named a name.) The reply was "Yes."

That was the charge that Dr. Byrd leveled late last night, less
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than 31 hours before the opening of the polls at which the voters will decide whether he or Republican Governor McKeldin is the winner.

During the course of his half-hour television appearance, Dr. Byrd also charged that he had been misquoted by *The Sun* about his stand on the veteran's bonus question.

The Sun reported him as saying at an East Baltimore political meeting that he would sign any bonus bill.

Dr. Byrd said that he did not say that—that he had said he would sign "a bonus bill" with sound financing, among other things.

Defends' Regime

Otherwise, the campaign, to all intents and purposes had come to an end. Dr. Byrd earlier in the night issued a statement defending his regime as president of the University of Maryland.

Most of the arguments had been advanced, and had been digested by the voters just about as well as they ever will by the voters.

And elections officials were getting ready for an outpouring of an estimated 650,000 or more voters at the polls tomorrow.

Then, Dr. Byrd threw his last minute bombshell, opening up the whole thing again and knocking out what had promised to be a routine windup of an otherwise far from routine election campaign with a final flurry of traditional election eve appeals for support on the airways tonight.

Dr. Byrd spent the afternoon making the rounds of Baltimore oyster and bull roasts.

Final Major Statement

He took time out to prepare a final major statement and for a talk with the high brass in Democratic headquarters about finances.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars will be distributed today to the b'hoys for payment to the party's shock troops—the men and women who will man the precincts tomorrow.

Dr. Byrd's statement said that he has "been kicked around by experts" during the free-for-all campaign which turned out to be one of the most unusual—and most vicious, in many ways—in recent Maryland political history.

It was a campaign which will probably be decided one way or the other by the public's reaction to a racial issue which was injected into it.

Dr. Byrd issued a statement several weeks ago advocating a "home rule" system for handling the problem growing out of the Supreme Court decision declaring segregation of races in the nation's public school system is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court will hold hearings next month to decide how to implement its decision.

Won And Lost Votes

Governor McKeldin's only campaign statement on that issue was that as governor, he represents the law.

Dr. Byrd undoubtedly picked up the votes of some residents by his remarks on segregation; but he undoubtedly lost the votes of some who do not believe that such a question has any place in a State political campaign.

The former University of Maryland president's statement yesterday did not touch on the question.

It was built around a defense of his administration of the university's affairs and an attack on those who have attacked him during the last few months.

"Will Be Kicked Around"

"A candidate for public office should never feel sorry for himself," Dr. Byrd started. "He must realize . . . that he will be kicked around by his opponents; that his record will be scrutinized and every flaw magnified.

"He can deny the false accusations and explain the true ones—but the denials and explanations never quite catch up with the original charges.

"Even so, a candidate must take his knocks in stride, and not blubber all over the place about how unfairly he is being treated.

"Quite frankly, I've been kicked around by experts—but I am happy . . . to report there are no broken bones."

Faith In People

Dr. Byrd said that the "shield that protects me is a deep, abiding faith in the people of Maryland, in their sense of fair play, in their ability to see truth despite the campaign gibberish, in their willingness to get serious when the time comes to face serious matters."