

56 Candidates Seek State, Federal Offices

Montana affairs de politico are going to be in for a hot time during the next six weeks before the primary election, if the number of candidates seeking state and federal office present any indication of what to expect.

By midnight Wednesday, Secretary of State Sam W. Mitchell found himself paraphrasing a currently obnoxious singing commercial—"More more, more than ever before—more people are running for office . . .", and when he closed the books at 12 midnight sharp, all previous records had been shattered. Fifty-six Montanans had filed for the 13 offices to be filled next November.

Most sought after posts are those of governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general. For each, eight Republicans and Democrats have filed. Close behind is the railroad and public service commissionership with six. Four each have filed for: U. S. Senate and secretary of state; three in each of the two congressional districts; three for state treasurer; three for superintendent of public instruction. Two each have filed for state auditor; for six-year term associate justice, and two-year term associate justice.

Take Your Pick . . .

For U. S. senate: Sen. James E. Murray and Dr. H. J. McGregor, Democrats; Wellington D. Rankin and Tom J. Davis, Republicans.

Congress: first district, Mike Mansfield, Democrat; Judge Albert Angstrom and Montana university professor Ralph Y. McGinnis, Republicans. Second district: Wesley Abner D'Ewart, Republican; Willard Fraser, Billings, and Bernice Kingsbury, Valier, Democrats.

Governor: Sam C. Ford, RR. Commissioner Leonard Young, and Mike Kuchera, Hardin, Republicans; John W. Bonner and Leif Erickson, Helena; Art Lamey, Billings; George Melton, Dillon, and Vernon Hoven, Plentywood, Democrats.

Lieutenant governor: Rep. Jack C. Toole, Ferdig; Paul Cannon, Butte, and John E. Kennedy, Missoula, Dem-

ocrats; Rep. Dean Chaffin, Bozeman; Sen. Tom Burke, Billings; Sen. William Keeley, Deer Lodge; Sen. Sherman Smith, Helena, and John D. Gillan, Havre, Republicans.

Attorney general: Clarence Hanley, J. R. Wine, Helena, Arnold Olsen, Butte, Democrats; Stanley Foot, Helena; Oscar Nesvig, Wibaux; Justin Bourquin, Butte; Stanley Felt, Billings; F. A. Hamman, Polson, Republicans.

Secretary of state: Sam W. Mitchell, incumbent, Helena; Supreme Court Clerk Frank Murray, Democrats; Lou Knox, Helena, and Lieut. Gov. Ernest Eaton, Republicans.

State treasurer: Neil Fisher, Missoula, Democrat; Harry G. Todd, Ryegate and R. J. Dunn, Bozeman, Republicans.

Supt. public instruction: Elizabeth Ireland, incumbent, and Helen B. MacGregor, Butte, Republicans; Mary M. Condon, Billings, Democrat.

State auditor: John J. Holmes, incumbent, Democrat, and E. J. Mo, Helena, Republican.

Railroad commission: Ex-Senator Richland county, W. A. Leo; Ed Beckett, Missoula; Austin B. Middleton, Deer Lodge, and Don A. Reardon, Anaconda, Democrats; George Davis, Helena, and W. P. Harrison, Great Falls, Republicans.

Non-partisan judiciary: six-year term: Attorney Gen. R. V. Bottomly and Associate Justice I. W. Choate; two-year short term: Harrison J. Freebourn, Butte, and Associate Justice Gibson.

LEIF ERICKSON IN RACE FOR GOVERNORSHIP . . .

Judge Leif Erickson, Helena attorney, Tuesday filed his petition for nomination as governor on the Democratic ticket. In his filing statement Judge Erickson said that as governor he would work to "secure more effi-

Erickson stated that he was giving thought to the possibility of filing for the office and there has been much conjecture since that time among those interested in politics as to whether or not he would file. He will oppose four others who have already filed for the office.

Judge Erickson came to Sidney, Montana from Wisconsin as a boy and grew up near that town in the typical tarpaper shack of the early days. He graduated from the Sidney, Montana high school in 1924 and later graduated from the law school of the University of Chicago with the degree of Doctor of Laws. He worked his way through the university and graduated with honors. He was admitted to practice law in Montana in 1934 and immediately opened an office at Sidney, Montana. He was elected county attorney of Richland county and in 1938 was elected to the supreme court of the state of Montana; the youngest man ever to be elected to that position. At the expiration of the six-year term he ran for governor in 1944 and received the nomination. He lost to Sam C. Ford, now running for a third term, after a vigorous and heated campaign.

In 1946 in a race that attracted nationwide attention he unseated the veteran Burton K. Wheeler in the Democratic primaries for the U. S. Senate. He was subsequently defeated in the fall campaign by Zales Ecton.

Judge Erickson is now practicing law at Helena. Judge Erickson is married and has three children, Katie aged 9, Barton aged 6 and Elizabeth aged 2. He is a Lutheran. He is a member of several fraternal organizations including the Elks, the Eagles, the Masons and the Shrine.

ILO All That Remains of Old League of Nations

The International Labor Organization, only branch of the old League of Nations still surviving, was founded after the close of World War I at the suggestion of Samuel Gompers with the support of President Woodrow Wilson.



cient use of highway funds to insure early completion of permanent highways built to present needs . . . revise administration of liquor system with full publicity to all its operations . . . equalize school tax burden with 50 per cent of school costs to come from state funds . . . use the full power of the offset to halt rising prices . . . fight present plans to take Montana water for a wasteful, impractical navigation channel on the Lower Missouri . . . save Montana water for irrigation, power and resource development in Montana."

Judge Erickson declared in his filing statement that "the governor's first duty is to his own state. I will devote my full time to solving Montana's problems."

For his ten word statement on the ballot, Judge Erickson declared he advocates "Constructive action to solve Montana's road, school and development problems."

In a statement last week Judge

A. J. DAVIS ACTIVELY FIGHT METALS MINE INITIATIVE IN 1924

From the October 30th, 1924, issue of the Lewistown Democrat News, we find that Tom Davis, at that time third international president of the Rotary club, had discussed the Metals Mines Tax. The article states:

"Mr. Davis, who is no stranger to Lewistown, having visited here while district governor, emphasized that he was speaking as an INDIVIDUAL and did not seek to capitalize his position as an international officer of Rotary in pleading the case of the metal mining companies of the state.

"After giving a resume of the mines and the men who work them on Butte hill and the conditions that obtain there, the speaker stated that it was his firm conviction that the metal mining companies of the state were already paying their just proportion of the taxes of the state; one dollar out of every twelve of the state's revenue coming from this source; that the metal mines of the state had not been operated at a profit the past few years and that the imposition of this tax would have the effect of closing some of the smaller mines, or prove an unjust burden to the larger ones and be prejudicial to the best interests not only of the mining interests, but the state in general."

It is interesting to note that in the Montana Record Herald, issue of November 26, 1924, were published in full the political committees expense account required to be filed with the Secretary of State, under the Corrupt Practices act, after each election.

Pretty Fair Compensation For An "Individual"

Under the heading "What it cost 'Interests' to beat Dixon" was shown the report of the Montana Mining Association which reported contributions of \$24,454.00 of which \$19,100.00 contributed by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Included among the expenditures listed was the following: "Tom J. Davis expenses and compensation \$1,810.00."

Murray Appeals For More Funds For State Projects

Washington, June 4—Senator Murray of Montana today urged a senate appropriations subcommittee to approve original and supplemental requests for over 16 million dollars in order to speed up completion of the Hungry Horse Dam project in northwestern Montana, pointing out the urgency of the need for rapid construction of such projects as "the only solution to our destructive flood disasters."

The Montana senator criticized the house action in cutting funds for the project, asserting that "no attempt is made by the house appropriations committee in its report to point out any reason for the recommended reduction" and that "if the Hungry Horse dam in Montana, the McNary dam in Oregon and the Foster Creek dam in Washington were completed and in operation today, there could be no doubt that the flood crest of the Columbia river would not have reached its destructive height." He urged the rapid completion of such integrated projects as "the only solution to our destructive flood disasters."

Murray scored the action of the house in approving restrictions on the pool elevation of the Canyon Ferry dam project near Townsend, Montana, and the prohibition against the use of funds for the installation of electric power facilities, asserting that the result would be the loss of approximately 1,000,000 acre feet of water for irrigation purposes and that "the private power interests" would be granted a "virtual monopoly of the electric power" developed at the dam site.

Senator Murray also urged the committee to restore funds for the Havre-Shelby transmission line from Fort

Is Truman's Bungling Leading Us to War?

An Editorial from the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal

If it were possible to overlook the deadly seriousness of American-Soviet relations, the clumsy efforts of the nation's editorial writers, syndicated columnists and commentators to justify our state department's Russian fumble could not be more amusing.

There are notable exceptions, of course, but in the main the outpouring of comment from Washington reads like a product of a government propaganda mill.

Immediately following the Smith-Molotov conversation, apologists for the government employed a strained sort of logic to defend our actions. It was not easy to explain why President Truman and the state department suddenly backed away from their carefully prepared instructions telling Ambassador Smith in Moscow to make it clear to the Russians that "the door is always wide open for full discussion and the composing of our differences."

Then came the Wallace-Stalin exchange of notes and poor old Henry once again became the convenient whipping boy for the typewriter strategists.

It was so simple, you see. To divert attention from the basic issue of peace and pummel Wallace without mercy.

LET CANDIDATES SPEAK OUT

Last week Dorothy Thompson joined the pack of emoters and lamented that "If diplomacy can be conducted between a private citizen and the head of another state as part of an election campaign, this country is lost."

Now really, Miss Thompson, do you actually believe that Henry Wallace is conniving with Marshal Stalin to sell his country down the river?

Do you honestly think the Russians are so naive as to consider that Wallace can have any possible influence on the diplomatic course to be pursued in the future?

If, as you say, Miss Thompson, the Smith-Molotov meeting "was speeded up by the pressures of the Wallace campaign on the Democratic party," the Truman administration must be even weaker morally than its severest critics have suspected.

I hold no brief for Mr. Wallace and his views, which in the main are in direct conflict with my own, but it seems to me that the presidential aspirant of any party, be he Republican, Democratic or independent, not only has the right but the duty to state his position on American-Soviet relations, clearly the most important question of the hour.

Let us hear from Taft, Dewey, Stassen and Vandenberg. Is it treason to

question the wisdom of an accidental president or the day-to-day improvisation of foreign policy by the state department?

Shouldn't they be as forthright in their views and express them as freely as does Miss Thompson in her numerous town meeting discussions?

Must candidates for public office suffer a self-imposed silence on the fantastic theory that only the government should be heard when millions of lives and the fate of a tottering world hang in the balance?

BE FIRM, NOT TRUCULENT

I can well understand the administration's determination to "get tough" with Russia. The tragic blunder of appeasement and Russia's non-co-operative attitude toward the United States produced a frustration in our official circles which only a display of strength could cure.

But firmness in foreign policy does not mean slamming the door in Russia's face. That is an evidence of weakness, not strength.

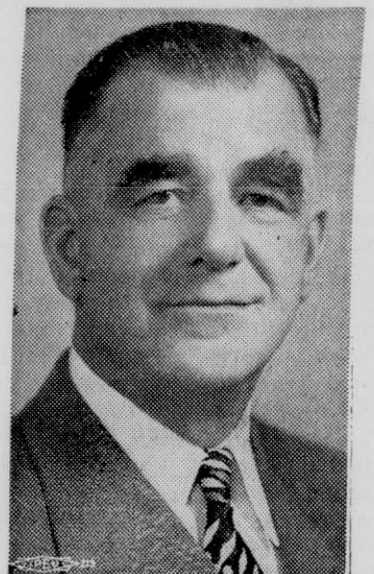
Nor is international diplomacy being practiced on a constructive level when Secretary Marshall first says he "will be glad to see Molotov in Washington" and then amends his statement to omit the word "glad".

There is an unnecessary truculence about our official attitude toward Russia which reveals the military mind at its worst.

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PAUL CANNON TO AGAIN RUN FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNORSHIP

Helena—Paul Cannon of Butte Saturday filed with Secretary of State Sam W. Mitchell his petition for Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in the July 20 primary.



Cannon will be opposed by Jack C. Toole of Shelby and John E. Kennedy of Missoula. The Butte merchant was a member of the Montana house of representatives in the 1939, 1941 and 1943 sessions and is a former speaker pro tem and Democratic floor leader in the lower house. He was Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in 1944.

Cannon said he would: "Favor building Montana into the leading state of the northwest; favor creating a new division of our state government to encourage the establishment of new industry in Montana which will increase our population and provide new jobs and business opportunities for our veterans and new markets for our farmers; favor expanding and modernizing our entire state highway system; favor reorganizing and improving all phases of our state educational system with adequate provision for necessary funds to accomplish this purpose; favor needed conservation measures to save our rapidly diminishing fish and wildlife resources; favor creating a separate department of labor."

He asked to have printed on the ballot: "Develop Montana—encourage new industry—create new jobs, markets and business opportunities."