

Dies Assured Of Re-election

By KENNETH G. CRAWFORD
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Martin Dies of Texas, chairman of the notorious and thoroughly discredited Dies Committee, will be unopposed in the forthcoming Congressional election. He will be back in Washington next year big as life and twice as natural.

Since he will not have to defend the practices of his Committee—practices which have driven many able men from the public service without benefit of hearing or appeal—he probably will not mend his ways. His Committee still is intact and in funds. It was voted another \$100,000 a few months ago.

The deadline for filing petitions qualifying candidates to run in the Fall primaries has passed in Texas. Although several Texans talked of running against Dies for the Democratic nomination in his district, where Democratic nomination is the same thing as election, none of them went through with it. Now it is too late.

The same thing has happened in other states.

Patrick a Casualty

Indeed, the early Congressional primaries have gone badly for the New Deal and for liberalism. Despite widespread dissatisfaction with Congress, most sitting Congressmen have won renomination in the few and scattered primaries already held—some of them in states where, as in Texas, nomination is tantamount to election.

In the Southern states, Representatives and Senators have emerged unscathed with only a few exceptions. The exceptions have been discouraging. Luther Patrick, the most liberal of the Alabama delegation, for example, was defeated, apparently by the business interests of his district working in combination with the forces of John L. Lewis. While Lewis took no open part in the campaign, he was reported to have opposed Patrick under cover in retaliation for Patrick's criticism of his conduct.

Rep. Robert Ramspeck of Georgia, another outstanding Southern liberal, also is reported in grave danger of defeat. The Georgia primary has not been held as yet, however, and he may pull through.

Smith May Lose

In Virginia there will be two spirited primary contests and the outcome of both is doubtful.

Howard W. Smith's friends in northern Virginia first undertook to avoid a primary contest by ruling Emmett Davison, his pro-labor opponent, off the primary ballot on a technicality. But they relented when Davison threatened to run as an independent in the general election.

Then Smith, who has the most all-out anti-labor record in Congress, met the threat of opposition by sponsoring a bill to raise the pay of Government employes, many of whom live across the Potomac from Washington in his district.

Farther down in the state, Moss Plunkett, a liberal, anti-poll-tax lawyer, is running against Clifton A. Woodrum, one of the leaders of the House economy bloc. Plunkett's campaign is said to be progressing remarkably well.

Faddis Beaten

One extreme rightist was beaten in the recent Pennsylvania primary—Charles I. Faddis, chairman of the House Military Affairs Subcommittee. The Faddis Subcommittee, in its own way, has worked along parallel lines with the Dies Committee.

Robert Rich, reactionary Pennsylvania Republican, retired voluntarily.

George Holden Tinkham of Massachusetts, anti-Roosevelt Republican isolationist, also quit without a struggle.

The only Senator so far beaten for renomination is William J. Bulow of South Dakota, Democratic isolationist. He was licked by a New Dealer. Bulow's defeat is the only really bright spot in the primary elections so far held.

President Roosevelt so far has not interfered in primary contests and indications are that he will not. He apparently is fearful that Presidential intervention in wartime politics will have the opposite of the desired effect, as it did in 1918 when Woodrow Wilson asked for a Democratic Congress and got a Republican majority.

However, the President is taking an active interest in New York State politics, where he can take a hand without being called an outside agitator. He has recently talked with several New York political leaders. Just what he has told them is not known, but he apparently has offered support to none of the leading candidates. It will not surprise Washington observers if his own choice for Governor, in the end, is Sen. James Mead.

Representatives and Senators have been so generally under fire recently that they have tended to band together for mutual defense, regardless of party or ideology. Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney, Wyoming Democrat, delivered a radio speech this week defending the record of Congress in general and denouncing its "bureaucratic critics." He said Congress authorized defense measures long before administrative officials got around to exercising the power granted them.

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