

Ex-Senator Heads Coal Group at \$25,000 a Year

By the Associated Press.

Edward R. Burke, former Nebraska Senator, announced today he had been elected president of the Southern Coal Producers' Association at an annual salary of \$25,000, and that one of his first tasks would be to begin negotiations on new wage contracts between mine workers and operators.

His selection, he said, was predicated on a decision by the association to present a united front on its problems to various Government boards "by a disinterested party with a fresh viewpoint."

Mr. Burke said the association is made up of 650 to 700 operating companies in the bituminous coal district, including West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

Headquarters will be in Washington, with a branch statistical office maintained in Cincinnati, he said.

The former Senator said he did not want to leave Washington, give up his law practice in Omaha, or remove himself from the political field in Nebraska.

"I was assured that the job would not interfere with any of those factors. The position, therefore, is more or less of a part-time nature," he added.

Mr. Burke, who served in the Senate from 1934 until 1940 as a Democrat, changed his registration to Republican after the November, 1940, elections.