

# ... Won Pro-Fascists' Praise as an Author

Stephen A. Day is a Representative-at-Large from Illinois whom surprisingly few of the people of Illinois seem to know.

Young Republicans living almost next door to him in Evanston did not realize that their Congressman was also their neighbor until I asked them about him.

A woman who said she was "simply wild" about Sen. "Curly" Brooks, and told me all about him, did not know a thing about the little man who rides on the Senator's coat tails.

A former state's attorney said that he had supposed that Congress, like all dogs, had its Day, but he never had met the gent personally.

Even the people who know him well as a result of campaigning with him tend to treat him the way that the hotel-room politicians in *Of Thee I Sing* treated Throttlebottom, whom Day rather resembles.

He is a bald, bulky man with bushy brows. He wears horn-rimmed glasses and has a little American flag in his buttonhole. He moves about quietly and humbly, smokes and swears gently, and if he lived down in the Spoon River Valley people would call him "judge."

His office in Washington resembles a small-town lawyer's cozy, moderately efficient hangout. In Evanston, which is one of Chicago's bigger, better suburbs, he lives in a rather drab, middle-class apartment house. He is a widower now, with five children, one of whom, a Northwestern graduate, recently became the bride of a young naval ensign from Harvard.

### Opposed by Willkie

Born in Ohio, educated there and in North Carolina, the Congressman got an A. B. at the University of Michigan in 1905, but learned law the old-fashioned way, in lawyers' offices. He practiced in Washington, Cleveland and Chicago for years and is particularly proud of having been special counsel to the Comptroller of the Currency. Despite much contact with men of means and despite his sympathy for big corporations, he is not wealthy. He takes pride, too, in being rather poor.

He asks little, gets little. The Chicago *Tribune* (which one of its softest critics calls "the midwest's bellyache") never forgets his name when it gloats about the num-

ber of isolationists who already have been renominated, but it does not mention him very often otherwise. Col. McCosmic keep its spotlight focused on the Wintergreen of the Illinois comedy, "Curly" Brooks, whose opponent always is referred to in the *Trib* as "Rep. Raymond S. (Small Potatoes) McKeough." You'd scarcely suspect, from reading the *Trib*, that Day had any opposition.

Yet he is the man whom Wendell Willkie mentioned by name as an example of the Republican isolationists against whom Willkie will go out to campaign this Fall.

"If I were a citizen of Illinois," said the 1940 standard bearer of Day's party, "I wouldn't vote for Congressman Day."

Big Bill Thompson familiarized the phrase, *America First*, and popularized hatred of England in Illinois years ago. Day has spoken similarly. But this does not seem to be the explanation of the people's predilection for Day.

He seems to have won by being defeated.

The ballots are long in Illinois. The farmers, the hog butchers, the tool makers, the players with railroads cannot possibly know all of the candidates. And for nearly 20 years the name, Stephen A. Day, has been bobbing up on the long ballots.

It's a good name: Remember Stephen A. Decatur? Remember Justice Day? Remember Rose O'Day? There are 30 Days in *Who's Who* for 1942.

### Name an Asset

And Stephen A. Day's success suggests that there's more to a name than Shakespeare suspected. The citizens of Illinois seem to have voted for Stephen A. Day, not because they knew him or knew something about him, but because they thought they knew or thought they ought to know him. His name on the ballot looked familiar. It was there five times before he got elected.

Repeated rebuffs never dismayed Day. In 1934, he ran fourth in a field of seven candidates in the Republican primary. In 1938 he ran second in a field of five candidates in the primary. In 1940 he ran second again in a field of 14 candidates and because Illinois was entitled to two Representatives-at-Large that year, Stephen A. Day became the Republicans' nominee No. 2.

In the intervals between these unspectacular performances, he had made speeches about the Constitution, thereby getting the name, Stephen A. Day, into the newspapers a few times.

Illinois has 92 daily newspapers in addition to the Chicago *Tribune*. They are pretty conservative, too. In *Editor & Publisher's Yearbook*, 35 Illinois dailies list themselves as Republican or Independent Republican, as compared with only seven that call themselves Democratic or Independent Democratic.

It is Abraham Lincoln's state. It is a wealthy and cautious state. And its long ballot tends to encourage its busy, bare headed, laughing people, who lean naturally toward Republicanism, to vote a straight party ticket.

### Tags Along

In the Fall of 1940, Stephen A. Day finished in second place among the four Congressional candidates. He had 2,020,008 votes and the leading Democrat, T. V. Smith, had 1,968,143. By that narrow margin, the Republican's No. 2 nominee became Illinois's No. 2 Representative-at-Large.

In Cook County, where both Day and

Smith live, Smith got more votes than Day. There, too, a Democrat named Orlikowski got more votes than Day.

Cook County is Chicago. Its voters have a penchant for such names as Maciejewski and Kocialkowski. Nevertheless, the fact that Day is a Chicagoan probably got him some Chicago votes.

There are no other real cities in Illinois, and the small-town and farm folk vote as though they were suspicious of foreign-sounding names. "Day" apparently sounded good to them. So did the other Republican Congressional candidate's name—William G. Stratton, whose father, William J. Stratton, was well known in Illinois. Thanks to the downstate vote, William G. Stratton finished in first place and Stephen A. Day trotted in second.

Maybe I have over emphasized the beauty and magic of names, but this is the best explanation offered by veteran Illinois political reporters for Stephen A. Day's presence in Congress.

This Spring, at long last, he was high man in a Republican primary. It was his seventh race. Even so, he did not get a majority.

The vote was split four ways. His opponents were: Denison B. Hull, an architect, who was

one of the organizers of Fight for Freedom in Chicago.

Dr. Bert Roan, Mayor of Bushnell, Ill.

Charles R. Vincent, a Yale man from an old Illinois family, whom the Chicago *Tribune* was inclined to favor until it saw that it could not put him over.

There was no strong glare of publicity on Day's record. The vote was light in the Illinois primary. And it turned out as happily for Day as did the beauty contest in *Of Thee I Sing* for Throttlebottom.


The Fight-for Freedom man got 286,351 votes, the Yale man took 83,415, the Bushnell Mayor accounted for 47,920, and that left 324,820 for Day.

Rep. Jessie Summer, from downstate Illinois, who was the subject of a case history like this in PM a few weeks ago, complained afterwards that PM seemed "to want to elect rabbits." Day certainly ruffs as quietly as a rabbit.

This Fall he's up against a man named Adamowski.—V. T.

Turn the page to meet Day's opponent and read Torrey's conclusions on the Illinois race.

# WE MUST SAVE THE REPUBLIC



by

## Stephen A. Day

Congressman at Large, State of Illinois

One Dollar

