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Adamowski in the Race Against Hamfishism

He Switches From Sure Election in Chicago to Campaign Against Day

Ben Adamowski got more than twice as many votes in the Illinois primary this Spring as his three opponents for the Democratic nomination for Representative-at-Large against Stephen A. Day. But of his 599,267-vote total, 488,808 were from Chicago and only 110,459 from downstate. Being an "owski," the politicians had warned him, would be a handicap outside the city.

But Ben thinks the farmers' prejudice against strange names can be overcome and is out campaigning this Summer with fellow Democrats who are blessed with simpler names such as Fred Butcher. If Ben Adamowski merely wanted to be a big shot, or to make money, he would have stuck to Cook County politics, where he could be elected almost anything. But he feels strongly about hamfishism.

"The next Congress," he says, "will control the destiny of our great nation. It was a selfish group of selfish, individual senators who, after the last war, forgot the contribution of our fighting forces . . . and prevented us from joining hands with other nations in preserving the kind of peace which we now fully realize is only possible through co-operation of the dominant powers . . . Nov. 3 is our opportunity to fire a shot which will be heard in Berlin, Tokyo and Rome . . . We must let the people of all the conquered countries know that never again will we close our eyes to our responsibility as a nation."

Famous as Orator

He is only 35, but he has a voice. Already he is famous throughout Illinois as an orator. He begins with a funny story. He goes on like a college debater, ticking off point after point in long, complicated sentences, talking faster and faster, and finally hammering like a sledge hammer over a roar of applause.

He has a square Polish face, black brows

and a genial smile. He dresses neatly, but there are no big-city airs about him. He is an old hand at backslapping, meeting reporters, and posing for photographers. He does such business almost as well as Ham Fish.

His father, too, was a politician. And Chicago's big Polish community elected Ben Adamowski to the Legislature when he was 23. He had 10 years' training there. He was the Democrats' leader both when they were in the majority and when they were only a minority. He knows all the parliamentary ropes. And, if he goes to Congress, he will be a big help to the Administration in the rough and tumble of floor debate in the House of Representatives. He can dish it out and he can take it and hurl it back as though it were custard pie.

Takes On Rep. Day

He withdrew from the legislature to run for the U. S. Senate in 1940. The Kelly-Nash machine beat him in the Democratic primary, 796,036 to 511,231. This year he was scheduled to run for the Senate again. Then he thought of running for the House from the 7th District in Chicago. But he finally decided Rep. Day was the man for him to beat and came out for Representative-at-Large.

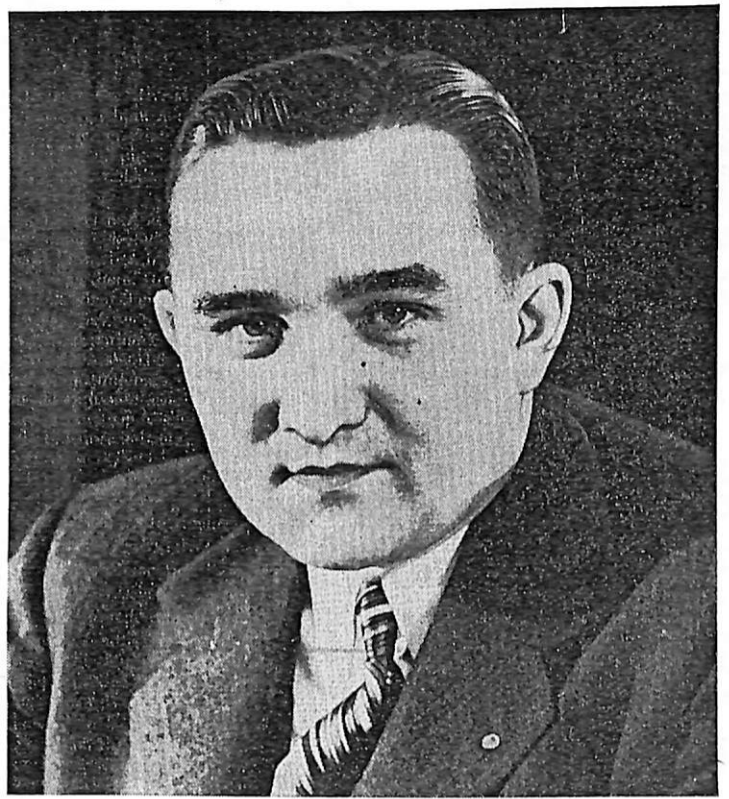
The Kelly-Nash organization then got behind him for four highly practical reasons:

¶ His decision to run against Day meant less trouble in other races for the organization.

¶ His solidity with the Poles in Chicago would make it dangerous to go on opposing him.

¶ His friendships throughout the state, the result of his legislative career, may help the ticket.

¶ His eloquence is a match for that of "Curly" Brooks, who heads the GOP ticket as a candidate for re-election to the Senate. Stephen A. Day calls Ben Adamowski a



Ben Adamowski—if he beats Day he'll be a big help to the Administration.

"machine" candidate as a result of this Kelly-Nash indorsement. It appears, however, that the Chicago "machine" got behind Adamowski because it thought it had to, rather than because it expected to be able to control him.

"I'm an independent, seel" Stephen A. Day continues. There is some truth in that. But the Kelly-Nash machine isn't the only one in Illinois. There's another, headed by Republican Gov. Dwight H. Green. This one soured on Rep. Day after Pearl Harbor. But it will be behind him this Fall, in all probability, because it is afraid to turn on him now that he has been renominated.

So the real issue is not machine politics. It's what sort of man Illinois wants to send to Congress. Day's record is an open book. Adamowski reveals himself in his speeches:

"It will be fully as vital to democratic institutions that we win the peace following the war as that we are victorious against the Axis," he argues.

"I am a representative of the people who were the first to be ground under Hitler's mechanized divisions. I have consecrated

myself to an unrelenting fight against any such thing happening here.

"And I am alarmed because I know that we can lose this war unless there is in us a heartfelt realization of the full significance of the disaster which would follow defeat. There must burn within us a fierce, undying determination that we shall never be subjected to the forces of tyranny. . . .

"We should say to the men in the armed forces:

"Carry on! While you are doing your part, while you are using the implements of war we are providing for you, you can rest assured that the America to which you will return this time will be protected and preserved by elected leaders dedicated to the principles for which you are fighting."

And if Day pops back, he'd better watch out lest Adamowski hurl his own book at him, for in *We Must Save the Republic*, Rep. Day wrote:

"Heed the words of George Washington: *Let none but Americans be on guard tonight!*"—V. T.

Conclusions

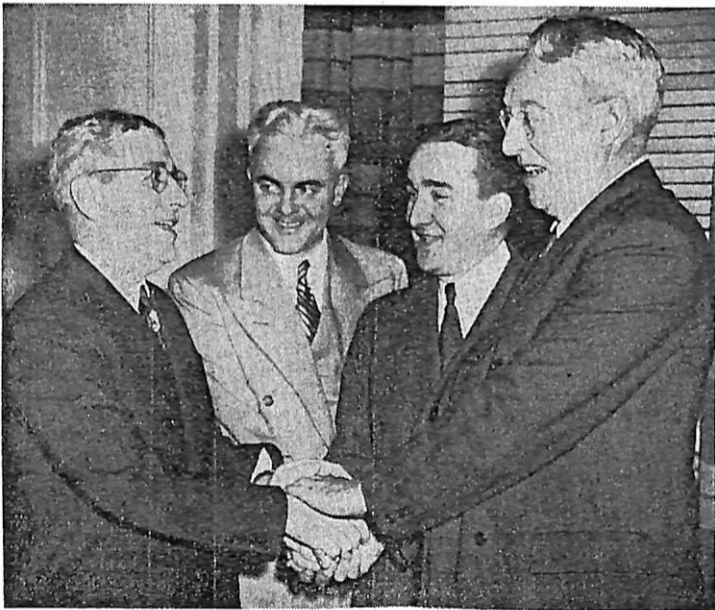
Hitlerism has been described as turning the clock back. Stephen A. Day is still back there. Hence, Clarence Streit's *Union Now* frightened him more than did Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. The Nazis took cruel advantage of his error.

Lest he make more such errors, he should be retired to an easy chair in a club window. A Congressman's mis-

takes can cost as many lives as a General's.

Stephen A. Day is not in Congress because he represents the people of Illinois. He is there because they have been too busy to pay much attention to him.

Ben Adamowski would represent them better. And by voting for him this Fall the farmers can, incidentally, disprove the theory that they are afraid of an "owski."—VOLTA TORREX.



Democratic leaders in Illinois, left to right: rep. Raymond S. McKeough, W. D. Forsyth, Ben Adamowski and Carey Peter.