

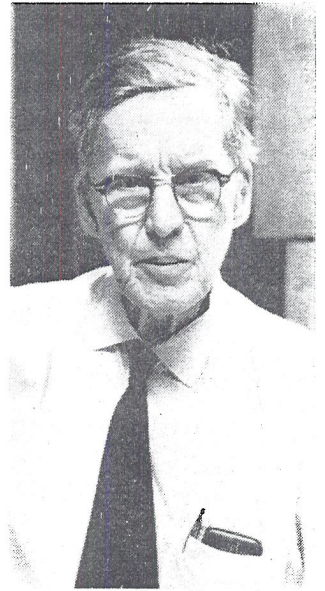
## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Nixon's First Foe

Everyone has to start somewhere, and for Richard Nixon the first step on the political ladder was California's Twelfth Congressional District, then centered in suburban Los Angeles. In the 1946 election, Mr. Nixon challenged a five-term, New Deal Congressman named Jerry Voorhis. After a bitter campaign, Mr. Nixon won by 65,586 to 49,994. "If he hadn't defeated me then," says Voorhis, now 71 and living in active retirement in Claremont, Calif., "he'd never have received another chance to run for political office."

That first race set something of a pattern for Mr. Nixon's later Senate race against Helen Gahagan Douglas. Although Voorhis had always opposed Communism, Mr. Nixon managed to persuade many voters that his opponent was supported by Communists. Voorhis denied it hotly and often, but he now concedes that his tactics may have been wrong. "I shouldn't have paid much attention," he says. "I should have stated my position and dropped the issue."

The defeat still rankles Jerry Voorhis, and his anger shows through in a book he has just written, a put-down of the President entitled "The Strange Case of Richard Milhous Nixon." Even so, Voorhis



First step: Nixon and Voorhis campaigning for Congress in 1946; Voorhis today

Lester Sloan—Newsweek

feels that "Mr. Nixon did me a favor." Voorhis was the scion of a wealthy family, and after he graduated from Yale in 1923 his father had offered him \$1 million to go into business. But Voorhis was fascinated by other aspects of American life. He worked as a cowboy, a freight handler and in a Ford plant; later he ran a progressive boys' school in California for a decade before entering Congress. His defeat enabled Voorhis to return to his pet causes, and he soon became executive director of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., a federation of

farm and consumer co-ops in which he had long been interested.

Retired since 1967, Voorhis and his wife Louise have settled in Claremont. He divides a busy 40-hour week among a mix of interests: the Episcopal Church, the Democratic Party, the boards of several co-ops, and his column for the Mid-Valley News in nearby San Gabriel. Voorhis swore off campaigning 26 years ago, but he thinks the times have swung in his favor. If Richard Nixon were starting out in politics this year, says Voorhis, "I might beat him."