

Scott Announces His Retirement After Three Terms in the Senate

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PITTSBURGH, Dec. 4—Senator Hug Scott, who went to Washington 35 years ago and rose to a position of prominence, prestige and power, announced today his retirement from politics.

The 76-year-old Republican, the minority leader of the Senate, cited his age and the availability of qualified successors as the reason for his decision not to seek a fourth term next year.

Speaking before Vice President Rockefeller and nearly 1,000 fellow Pennsylvanians, Senator Scott did not mention recent allegations that he accepted corporate funds from the Gulf Oil Company. Many believe these allegations played an important role in his decision to retire.

"I will say only that I have done my level best to be an honest, conscientious public servant," he told his sympathetic audience.

He said his close friend Senator Mike Mansfield, the Montana Democrat and Majority Leader, had known of his plans "for about two year," an apparent effort to discount the importance of the recent allegations of the scandal.

News Conference Canceled

Earlier, Senator Scott canceled without explanation an appearance before reporters that had been scheduled for several weeks. It was to have been his first such meeting since a Gulf lobbyist said that he had delivered company funds to the Senator on several occasions.

Instead, his aides distributed a two-page speech that Senator Scott later read in the crowded ballroom of the Hilton Hotel.

His announcement was part of a "Distinguished Republican Award" dinner honoring George I. Bloom, a former chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and a party stalwart who was also named as a recipient of the illegal Gulf funds.

Mr. Bloom has denied it. Senator Scott has not, and despite its absence from his formal announcement, that breath of scandal is believed by many to have heavily influenced his decision.

Neither did the mustachioed, pipe-smoking Senator speak of what friends say is his keen disappointment at the improbability of a diplomatic assignment to Peking, long an aspiration based on his avid interest in Chinese culture.

His decision leaves but eight incumbent Republicans seeking re-election to the Senate in 1976, and is likely to prompt a quiet but dogged struggle to succeed him as the party's leader there.

Speculation on Senator Scott's plans has been widespread in Pennsylvania for several weeks and there has been a rush of Republican candidates and prospective candidates to succeed him. George Packard, a Philadelphia newspaperman, and Arlen Specter, a former district attorney of Philadelphia, have already begun their campaign. Representative H. John Heinz, a member of the Pitts-

burgh family that owns the food company, has also formed a campaign committee, and Representatives Joseph M. McDade and E. G. Shuster are giving some thought to running.

Senator Scott, Virginia born and educated, was elected to the House from Philadelphia in 1940 and re-elected in 1942. He lost his seat in 1944, regained it two years later and has not been defeated since. In 1970, he became the first three-term senator in the history of Pennsylvania.

As his seniority increased, so did his prominence in his party's affairs. He was its national chairman in 1948, worked closely with the Eisenhower campaigns of 1952 and 1956, and took an active role in the Presidential candidacies of Richard M. Nixon in 1960 and 1968.

He also became a devotee of the culture of China, especially its art, and was among the strongest supporters of Mr. Nixon's reopening of Chinese-American relations in 1972.

When the Watergate scandal

began to break around the White House, it was Senator Scott who, time after time, emerged from meetings with Mr. Nixon to say that suggestions of wrongdoing on the President's part were unfounded.

Subsequent events proved him wrong, and in Pennsylvania there were immediate reverberations.

Many seasoned politicians agreed that his relationship with the former President had irreparably damaged his standing with his constituents.

Then, last month, came allegations about a \$10,000 annual contribution to him—\$5,000 every spring, \$5,000 every autumn—from the Gulf Oil Company.

In his column today, Frank Matthews, political writer for The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, called it the "final wound" and compared it to the disclosure in 1952 that Mr. Nixon, the Republican Vice Presidential candidate, had been the recipient of similar funds.

"Mrs. Nixon's cloth coat, a dog named Checkers and a good television scriptwriter saved the Nixon candidacy," Mr. Matthews wrote. "Scott may have the writers, but he doesn't have the props."