

Michigan Mirror

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an outstanding legislator-country editor. With a new face and a clever slogan, "Keys to Good Government," he captured the voters' favor and the politicians' respect.

By virtue of his independence, he became one of the most talked about men at Lansing during the 1942 legislative session. Some senators will swear by him; others will swear at him.

Almost single-handed, by firm parliamentary action, he forestalled attempts of Republican legislators to remove the office of highway commissioner from the April 5 ballot. (Incidentally, the friends of Charles M. Ziegler, the victorious Republican nominee for highway commissioner, were also opposed to the legislature's moves.

Governor Kelly favored the bills. Keyes was denounced by a metropolitan newspaper for perpetrating a "cheap parliamentary trick." The senate snubbed him when it refused to grant him the right of committee appointments. He continued to smile.

Dr. Keyes is ambitious. He hopes to be governor some day. He is a licensed practicing physician, a licensed dentist and a licensed attorney—a combination that is unorthodox among the professions and certainly the apex of extraordinary abilities.

Here is his own story of why he did as he did—and what he hopes to do in the future.

"For fourteen years I lived at my maternal grandfather's farm in Perth county, Ontario. I came to respect the farmer's individualism and to understand his problems. When the question of war time arose following the Novem-

ber election, I found myself sympathetic to the needs of the farmer, and at a session of members of the state administrative board I made a suggestion that war time be limited to six months during the summer season. I still believe that this would have been the best solution.

"You are interested in why I opposed the bills to deprive the people of the right to elect their own state highway commissioner. There are several reasons, and here they are.

"First, it did not seem logical to me that the people should be trusted with the choice of the state superintendent of public instruction, the regents of the University and members of the Michigan State College board but they shouldn't be trusted with choice of a state highway commissioner. "Highways are one of our greatest common denominators. Every

citizen is affected by highways, just as he is by schools.

"A second reason was my conviction that Governor Kelly and the Republican party would be blamed by the public if the state roads were not maintained and developed as adequately as they had been under Democratic administration.

"Take a look at these figures. During our 1942 fiscal year, the state collected around \$35,000,000 in gasoline taxes. This year the state may be fortunate to collect \$18,000,000. However, a legislative act sets aside \$6,000,000 annually for distribution back to the counties. This would leave around \$12,000,000 for our roads, compared with \$27,000,000. (Last week Secretary of State Herman Pigan estimated 1943 gas tax receipts at \$26,200,000.)

"As I see it, Democrats could

point to a decline in highway maintenance and put the blame right on the governor at the 1944 election.

"Another reason: Why did such Michigan automobile leaders as Ford, Fisher, Kettering, Algers and others take an active part in legislation to have the highway commissioner elected by the people and not appointed by the governor?

"A commission setup would have brought provincial log-rolling among members of the commission. It would have encouraged provincial highways rather than a state-wide system of good roads.

"Finally, when Governor Groesbeck created the state administrative board, he contributed the greatest single progressive step in the history of Michigan government. This act vested elected state officials with responsibility and voting authority in matters of

state policy. The state board became, in reality, the governor's cabinet.

"When the lieutenant governor was added later on, he became the agent of legislation, a liaison man between the governor and the legislature.

"The administrative board shared the governor's responsibilities, while the highway bills would have increased them. A road commission would have become another form of bureaucracy, government by delegated authority without initiative process, with provincial or district interests in constant conflict with state interests. Each new governor would have to meet criticism about state roads, although he would have had only limited control over the commission.

"Removing the state highway commissioner from the April ballot was not good government. That is why I opposed it."

About the publicized parliamentary move which thwarted efforts to save the highway bill, Dr. Keyes said:

"The day before the Republican state convention, the senate, after striking out the \$25,000 appropriation which would have forestalled a referendum and was the real color in the bill, voted down House Bill No. 30 which would have created a state highway commission. Upon motion to reconsider, the senate placed the bill on the table for possible revival later on. About a week later the bill was amended whereby the commissioner became an appointee of the governor. It was defeated and the bill under the rules was dead and could not be revived during the same session of the legislature.

"However, the chair was over-ruled again, and a few days later the same amendment was introduced, providing for the appointment of a highway commissioner, but reducing the salary \$250, stipulating the date he was to commence work, and a 10 year Michigan residence as a prerequisite. This contravened the rules 'again which provided that an amendment once debated cannot be re-introduced in the same substance during the same session of the legislature. The chair was again over-ruled and the Senate passed the bill as amended."

"The house bill, thus changed, was sent back to the house. The house could not agree, and it asked for a conference committee. Senate members were named by the senate.

"When the conferees could not agree, a suggestion was made to have the lieutenant governor appoint a new one. I named a committee consisting of the majority and minority floor leaders and another member who was a strong proponent of the bill. The senate in a ramp session, moved to reconsider the bill. This was not the proper method of discharging the committee, and was contrary to parliamentary procedure.

"The substitute or third conference committee then revised the same house bill No. 30, previously defeated by the senate, with the \$25,000 appropriation to forestall a referendum vote. The joint con-

ference rules provide under the last sentence of rule 7, where the conference rules are silent, the house rules (where the bill is under consideration) govern. Senate rules 29 and 30 provide that appropriation bills must be referred by the President to the committee on finance and appropriation.

"The proponents of the bill sought to circumvent these rules, without a suspension, under the guise of a conference report. The constitution provides that a bill cannot be passed by its title only, but must proceed through proper and complete legislative channels.

"To suspend the rules for immediate passage of a bill, a motion must be supported by two-thirds of those present and voting, as a protection to minority rights. And so when Senator McCallum arose to move adoption of the conference report, he in effect moved to suspend the rules. I declined to put the motion to a vote.

"When another senator then moved to adjourn, I put the motion promptly to vote. The motion to adjourn takes precedence over all other motions except a point of order. The vote by voices was easily two to one. I did leave immediately."

Dr. Keyes concedes that he was obstinate and treated a few of the senators roughly, but he insists that his parliamentary decisions will stand up under test. In fact, he said he had consulted other lieutenant governors, including one in another state.

It is easy to predict a fairly tempestuous career at Lansing for the Dearborn doctor-dentist-attorney. At a meeting of the Administrative board tomorrow the April 5 election, Keyes sided with Lloyd Sted, outgoing highway commissioner.

What is his interest in Michigan politics?

"I believe Governor Kelly is a junta or re-election," he said. "I hope to be a candidate for governor or some day, but not against Harry Kelly. However, if Kelly runs for United States senator in '46, that's something else."

The lieutenant governor, independent in his convictions, is inclined to champion the underdog. He is no conservative.

How far he will go in Michigan politics is a matter of discussion and some controversy.

Victory

(Continued from Page 2)

illness or for being engaged in a nondeferrable activity or occupation; (a) sickness of registrant or immediate family of registrant; (b) physical disqualification; (c) reasonable vacation; (d) compelling circumstances that would not permit the change of employment in a ramp session, moved to reconsider the bill. This was not the proper method of discharging the committee, and was contrary to parliamentary procedure.

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Gen. Hershey emphasized also that all cases must be "considered with common sense" and that local boards and appeals agencies in considering the status of such registrants shall be governed by the general provisions of Selective Service Regulations as to procedure, notices, and appeals.

WHAT'S THIS WAR ABOUT, DADDY?

Honey, in a place called China, children can never play as you can . . . because men in airplanes roar overhead and shoot them, and burn their homes.

In other places . . . in Norway and France, in Poland and Greece and Russia . . . children have their mothers and daddies taken away from them . . . led off to a prison called a concentration camp. Their children may never see their parents again.

Many of these children—boys and girls just like you—don't get enough to eat. Many of them have starved to death.

Why is all this happening? Because there are evil people in the world, who call themselves the Axis, who do these things. And it's our job to make them stop—to see that they never trouble the world again. That's what this war is all about.

To do our job we've got to knock out the Axis. And a lot of us Daddies would like to do it with our own fists . . . or our own guns. We can't all do that. There's other work that Uncle Sam wants us to do.

So let's help knock out the Axis with that work. Let's take a dime out of each dollar we earn while working and buy War Bonds and Stamps to turn our dollars into America's tough new tanks and planes.

So . . . tell your employer to set aside 10 percent of what you earn every payday in the War Bond Payroll Savings Plan. Then, each time it adds up to \$18.75, you'll get a bond.

Your Government will use that money to smash the Axis. Every dollar is a nail in Hitler's coffin. Every bond a bomb to blow the Jap off this earth. And your

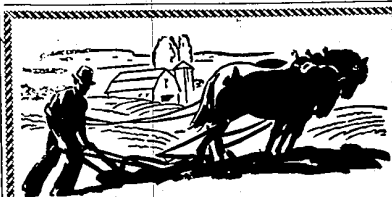
money is an investment against that time when peace returns and you will no longer have to answer that question:

"Daddy, what's this war about?"



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