

Ex-Judge Ax Is Candidate For Governor

By EUGENE J. CADOU
United Press International
INDIANAPOLIS (UPI)—Former

Indiana Appellate Court Judge John R. Ax, Linton, whose term ended this week, already is active as a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1964. Others have been mentioned for that nomination; but Judge Ax appears to be the only one actually entered in the contest to date. Democratic National Committee man Alex Campbell has attempted to interest Dr. Herman B. Wells, former Indiana University president, in that race without success. Clinton Green, of Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, who is perhaps

second only to Governor Welsh in power, likewise has been mentioned. He is Welsh's administrative assistant and also executive secretary of the Indiana Port Commission. He says no comment. Kizer Mentioned, Too Then there is State Sen. Marshall Kizer, Plymouth, Senate Democratic floor leader, who apparently has regained prestige with Welsh after a period in the doghouse. Kizer in 1958 was defeated for the U.S. senatorial nomination by Sen. Vance Hartke.

In the background is the perennial possibility that Rodger D. Branigin, Lafayette, former Indiana State Bar Association president, might run. Judge Ax in 1962 was defeated in a bid for the Supreme Court by incumbent Judge Norman Arterburn, a Republican. Ax was born in 1915 in Jasonville and was graduated from high school there. He received a BS degree in business administration and an LLB degree in law from Indiana University. Prior to being elected to the

Appellate Court bench, Ax practiced law in Huntington for more than 17 years and in Linton for four years. In Huntington, he was attorney for the Linton-School board. Owns Radio Stock He supervises farms in Greene, Clay, Sullivan and Knox Counties and is a stockholder in radio stations in Jasper and in Danville, Ill. He is married, the father of five children and belongs to the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Welsh, whose Statehouse patron-

age machine had much to do with the nomination of Sen-elect Birch E. Bayh, Jr., may be able to dictate the gubernatorial nominee, although 1964 is his last year in the governor's chair. He has refrained from expressing publicly any preference to date. Some observers predict that former State Auditor Albert Steinwedel, Seymour, may try again for governor; Welsh downed him in a gubernatorial bid in 1960. Steinwedel is keeping his mouth shut.

Castro Took Cuban Power 4 Years Ago

EDITOR'S NOTE: Four years ago Tuesday Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba following the pre-dawn flight of President Fulgencio Batista. Since then Cuba under Castro has become a beachhead for communism in the Americas. UPI correspondent Francis L. McCarthy, who was in Cuba at the time of the revolt, reviews in the following dispatch the Cuban transition under Castro.

By FRANCIS L. MCCARTHY
UPI Latin American News Editor

Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista fled Havana in the grey, early morning hours of New Year's Day, 1959. Within hours, followers of Fidel Castro seized power for the young revolution.

In the four years that have elapsed since the beginning of the Castro government, the Cuban transition from democracy to dictatorship has been complete.

Cuba is today the first Soviet satellite in the Americas.

Cubans, plagued by nearly three years of civil strife and restricted civil liberties, hailed Batista's flight. They welcomed Castro as a "liberator."

Few of them anticipated the fate in store for themselves under Castro's rule. Cuban organized labor has been stripped of its social gains, the people as a whole have been deprived of their civil rights.

Seizes Property In the four years that Castro has been in power, tens of thousands of privately owned businesses have been confiscated, more than a quarter of a million Cubans have been driven into exile and several billions of dollars in foreign assets and capital investment have been seized without compensation.

American investors alone have lost more than \$1.4-billion in Cuba.

Castro has admitted the "execution" of more than 1,000 known enemies. His political foes in exile claim the list of firing squad victims actually exceeds the 3,000 mark.

At least 50,000 of Castro's political foes languish in jails and concentration camps throughout Cuba for their opposition to his regime.

Four years after his seizure of power, Castro is today — from the military sense — still the master of Cuba.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of Soviet military equipment at an expenditure of more than \$100 million, and the creation of an armed force of an estimated 300,000 men and women — ten times the size of any previous Cuban army — have seen to that.

Takes Its Toll Economically, the four years of socialist "destruction" of the capitalist system long existent in Cuba has had its toll.

The Cuban peso — once on a par with the U.S. dollar — no longer is traded in world currency markets. Its black-market price ranges — dependent on the currency involved — down to 20 to the dollar.

The nation's economy — once hinged to that of its American neighbor to the north — now is entirely dependent on Communist aid. Cuba's foreign trade of today is more than 80 per cent tied in with the Communist world.

The Cuban sugar crop — the country, even after four years of Castro continues to be a one-crop economy — is bartered instead of

sold. The United States once bought nearly a billion dollars a year of Cuban sugar. The same sugar now is a barter item in Cuban trade with the Communist world. Food in Cuba for the first time in that island's history is now rationed. Most commodities are, too. The so-called working and military classes under Castro have priority in their acquisition.

Lone Effort Fails In four years, only one major armed effort has been made to topple Castro's Communist regime. That was in April, 1961, when an estimated 1,500 Cuban "soldiers of freedom" stormed ashore at the Bay of Pigs, near Havana, to try to seize enough Cuban territory for formation of a "government-in-exile."

The Bay of Pigs invasion, in which the United States played a prominent role, was a failure. Castro netted nearly 1,200 war prisoners.

Groups in the United States have since raised an estimated \$53 million in ransom foodstuffs and drugs to free the Cuban invasion captives.

However, it has been in the field of international diplomacy that Cuba has played its most prominent role in the four years of Castro rule.

In October, 1962, the United States and Soviet Russia had their first so-called confrontation in modern history over the question of Soviet armed aid to the Castro regime.

Installed Missiles The Russians, with Cuban collaboration, installed nuclear warheads and other offensive weapons, posing a threat to the United States.

The Russians withdrew their warheads and bombers and pledged withdrawal of their military forces in Cuba only after the United States put troops on the alert and warned that any nuclear retaliation for a rocket attack on the American mainland would be a shower of missiles on the Soviet homeland.

The Soviet pullout did not please Castro or his cohorts, but the Cuban economy has become so dependent on the Communist world that there was little or nothing the Cuban dictator could do about it.

That Soviet-Cuban relations have been severely strained as a result has become clearly evident to the non-Communist world.

However, only time will tell whether the strain has been so severe as to lead Castro to contemplate a more "independent" form of socialist thinking or, perhaps, closer ties with the Red Chinese.

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