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## NORMAN DAVIS WON EMINENCE BY HARD FIGHT

'Informal Ambassador' to Europe Began Career on Tennessee Farm.

### MADE FORTUNE IN CUBA

Trusted Adviser of Wilson Expected to Receive Cabinet Berth.

BY MARSHALL MCNEIL

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Norman H. Davis, then a lad in knee pants, was riding horseback from his home in Bedford county, Tennessee, to a "third Sunday in May meeting." Those were meetings of worshippers who humbly washed the feet of others. People gathered from about; it was a big day.

Norman tore a stocking on a saddle buckle, and the prospect of getting to that big Sunday meeting was pretty black for a moment.

But! Norman had an idea: He took his chewing gum out of his mouth, patted the stocking by sticking it together with gum on his bare leg, and rode on gaily.

Norman H. Davis of Tennessee, Cuba, New York and Europe, now is a leading candidate for secretary of state in the Roosevelt cabinet, and his elder brother Ewin tells that story to illustrate some of the traits he believes caused Brother Norman to attain his present eminence.

For some years now, Davis has been a sort of American ambassador to Europe without portfolio; and his knowledge of European men and affairs is highly regarded.

The Davises have been Tennesseeans for generations. The father, a farmer and a business man, died when the six children were young, and a large share of the burden of supporting the family was shifted to the shoulders of young Ewin, then in Vanderbilt university. Norman was there, too.

### Began Life as Lawyer

Norman decided he would go to Leelan Stanford university in California to complete his courses. Before he went he was married to Miss Mamie Paschall of Atlanta, and together they went west, where from 1899 to 1900 he worked his way through college as a business manager of the school paper.

Brother Ewin began his life as a lawyer, borrowing enough money to buy his law books; and brother Paul, now president of the American National bank at Nashville, Tenn., known as the second largest in the south, started his business career as a \$35-a-month clerk. All three of these brothers now are in "Who's Who."

When Norman returned to Tennessee, Ewin tells, he found little to interest him, and so he accepted the invitation of a relative to go to Cuba to start in business.

### Fortune Started in Cuba

There he helped organize the Trust Company of Cuba, and later a construction company which got some large building contracts. Ewin says that is where his brother's fortune started. During his many years in Cuba, Norman retained his American citizenship.

In 1917 he was called upon by President Wilson to advise in connection with foreign loans; and this led to important financial and diplomatic jobs; he was an assistant secretary of the treasury and undersecretary of state.

He later became connected with an important New York bank, which, according to Ewin, did only a local business.

### \$25,000 to Al's Campaign

In 1927 he was a member of the American delegation to the Geneva economic conference; in 1928 he was appointed by President Hoover as a member of our delegation to the disarmament conference.

The honors given this Tennessean by the Republican President apparently have caused some to wonder what Davis had Republican leaning. But Brother Ewin scoffs at this, pointing out that Norman gave \$25,000 to Al Smith's campaign.

"Norman and ex-Governor Davis have been intimate friends for years," Representative Davis said.

Norman Davis is also an old friend of President-Elect Roosevelt; and they were in consultation several times before and after the Democratic national convention.

### Has Eight Children

Davis, indeed, is reported by some to have had no small part in getting Al Smith to take part in the Roosevelt campaign; but Brother Ewin won't discuss this.

Norman has eight children, and Brother Ewin tells how when asked after his children, in the presence of his wife, there's a twinkle in Norman's eyes, and he answers we have "eleven, or some larger number."

"And this is always followed by a correction by his wife," Ewin says.

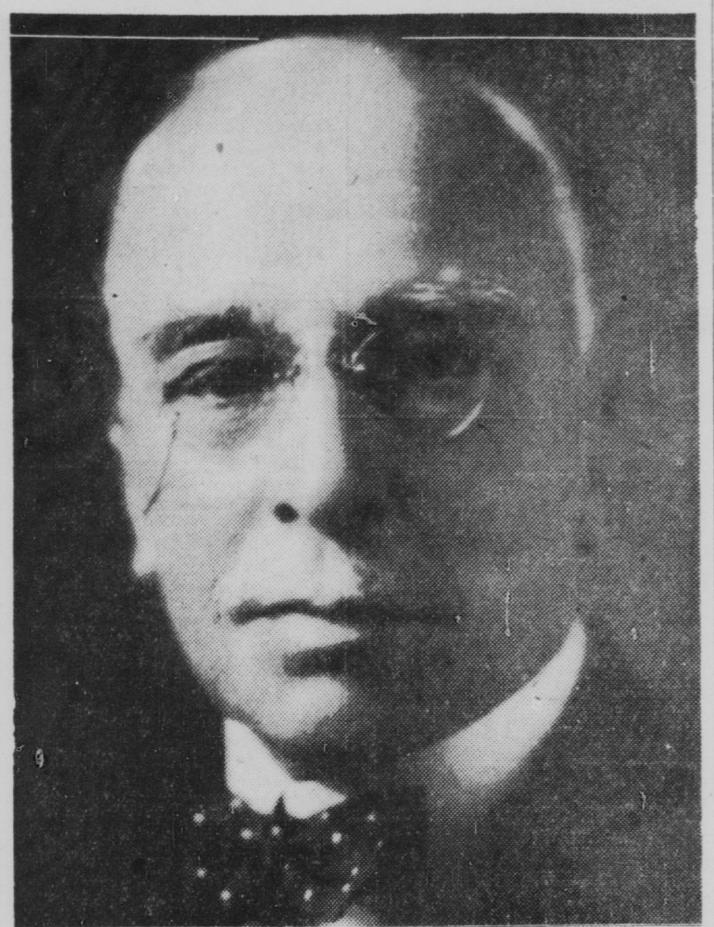
### ADMIT THEFT OF AUTOS

Four High School Youths Held by Police on Charge.

Admitting theft here recently of fourteen automobiles, according to police, four high school youths are being held today on vehicle taking charges. Three of the youths are being held.

Le Roy Stewart, 16, of 145 Wisconsin street, one of the youths, was charged with burglary, larceny and vehicle taking after he admitted, police say, burglary of a west side grocery.

## Increased Buying Power Essential to Revive U. S., Filene Tells City Group



Edward A. Filene

Employers Soon Will Be  
Vying to Pay Highest  
Wages, He Says.

Solution of America's business and social problems lies in creating purchasing power to absorb increased production, declared Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant and philanthropist, in an address at a noon meeting of groups from local lunch clubs at the Columbia club.

"It is one of the interesting inevitabilities of the near future that employers, business men, and financiers shall be striving to pay the highest possible wages," Filene declared in his address on "The Business Need of Financing the Masses."

"High pressure salesmanship without a corresponding high pressure 'buymanship' simply is throwing money to the winds. We must finance consumption to keep pace with production."

### Cites Credit Unions

The credit union, the name given co-operative loan organizations established by employee groups, represents a much-needed activity to finance the working man in times of temporary stress and keep his buying power intact, Filene said.

Filene sponsors credit groups throughout the nation. Filene was one of the first business men in America to become interested in credit unions.

"No intelligent business man needs to be reminded that if Americans generally were buying the things they want to buy, business generally would be highly profitable," Filene said. "To buy, however, requires either money or credit."

"But we are not providing the masses today with this buying power. The reason is not hard to discover. Our American financial institutions never were designed to meet an emergency such as this.

### Need Small Loans

"Provision should have been made forty years ago for the need of small loans to the average family, at a rate of interest which would not ruin the family and make it impossible to repay the loan."

"It may have seemed at times that our bankers acted more like buccaneers than financiers," Filene charged, in a scathing attack on past methods, in which he touched on the world war, high tariff, and farm relief programs.

"We built up great industrial plants and then we built up high tariff walls which kept these plants from functioning," he charged. "America loaned billions of dollars to other countries, and by excluding products of other countries made it next to impossible for the other countries to repay their loans."

"We financed agriculture so that farmers could continue the processes by which they had produced mountains of wheat and cotton and other products which could not be

## MRS. BRINK IS STILL IN LEAD

Times Entry's Cards Run  
Weak in Second Day  
of Bridge Play.

By Times Special

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Jan. 12.—Although holding consistently weak cards during the second day's play in the National Amateur Bridge tournament here today, Mrs. L. H. Brink of Indianapolis continued to lead the field. She is playing as The Times' representative.

"High pressure salesmanship without a corresponding high pressure 'buymanship' simply is throwing money to the winds. We must finance consumption to keep pace with production."

### HITS GARNISHEE LAW

Repeal of Act Is Sought in Bill  
Introduced in House.

Repeal of the Indiana garnishee law, which has been branded unconstitutional by many leading attorneys, sought in a bill introduced today in the house of representatives by Representative Fred Jessup (Dem., Centerville).

The act, passed by the seventy-fourth general assembly in 1925, is entitled "an act concerning executions and exemptions." Repeal of all mandatory and supplemental statutes also is asked.

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## CITY PRIMARY ABOLITION TO BE DEMANDED

Repeal Movement Seen as  
Certain of Support in  
Both Parties.

### HANDS OFF BY MCNUTT

Governor Expected to Sign  
Bill If Legislature  
Approves It.

Abolition of the direct primary in municipal elections loomed today, with announcement by Governor Paul L. McNutt of a "hands off" policy concerning it.

Leaders of the repeal movement took McNutt's statement as indirect approval of their cause.

"Primary repeal is not an administration measure," McNutt declared. "But neither will it be opposed by the administration. Ours will be a 'hands off' policy concerning it."

This was interpreted to mean that if the bill is passed the Governor will sign it.

### Supported by Both Parties

Only local offices, including representatives in congress, now remain under the primary system.

Primary repeal is said to have the support of both the Democratic and Republican party organizations. Passage now would do away with the municipal primary in May. Candidates for city offices would be nominated by the party organizations for final decision of the voters at the election in the fall.

Two bills are in the process of making, it was learned. One is a blanket bill to repeal all primary laws and the other would effect repeal of the primary in cities only. This would leave the county and congressional offices still under the primary plan.

Since the party organizations are built up from the precinct committee, and these are selected in the primary, the repeal bill will provide that committeemen be chosen by voters at the general election.

### State Repeal in 1929

Primary repeal covering state offices was passed in 1929 by bipartisan action.

McNutt also explained today why he had not mentioned the intangible tax in his message to the legislature in the contest.

"Passage of an intangibles tax is one of the Democratic platform measures," he explained. "In my opinion, it was so understood, and I did not stress it because I feel that it will be a doubtful source of revenue at this time."

Bill for a tax on intangibles at 25 per cent of their value was introduced in the house by Representative John M. Cantley (Dem., Loganport).

Such measure long has been recommended by the state tax board.

### 'Slap' Sticks

'Do It Again,' Is Plea of  
Man Smashed With  
Cops' Trick Clubs.

By Times Special

CHIEF MIKE MORRISSEY'S  
C NEWLY-patented police "billy clubs" have demonstrated its practicality.

Armed with two brand new "slap sticks" which resemble a section of a broad rubber belt, patrolmen Norval Bennett and Ray Boyd Wednesday night went to a rooming house in North New Jersey street to eject a stubborn roomer who had defaulted in the payment of his rent.

Entering the room of the man, Bennett and Boyd found him reclining on a bed, sans clothing.

The roomer rested arguments of the officers refusing to leave the room.

Bennett and Boyd drew their "trick" clubs, grasped the finger notches securely and administered two resounding smacks.

Both officers were chagrined to see the face of the man break into a broad smile.

"Ain't that nice," he said.

Again the "billyes" descended this time with a loud report.

Still wearing a smile, the roomer rose, donned his clothing and went away from there.

At 6:30 tonight Filene will speak at a meeting of Indiana Credit Unions in the Antlers.

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