

Feeney, McKinney Deny Growing Rumors About Pending Split

Democratic Splinters Lining Up on Basis of Differences Between Two Forces

By NOBLE REED

The trend of factional alignments in the Marion County Democratic organization may develop into a new twist that will surprise some party workers in the coming scramble for primary elections spots, it was learned yesterday.

Several splinter wings of the party have been lining up in preliminary skirmishes on the basis of an expected split between Frank E. McKinney, a key Democratic leader, and Mayor Al Feeney's City Hall organization.

Discussing possible lineups for the 1950 campaign in Marion County, Mr. McKinney declared there will be no split between him and Mayor Feeney. He expressed surprise at rumors that there would be any friction.

"I don't know where these stories are coming from," Mr. McKinney said.

"When the chips are down Al Feeney and I will see eye-to-eye on the campaign strategies . . . we won't be far apart on anything."

Ridiculous Rumors

Mayor Feeney described as ridiculous recent rumors that he will oppose the McKinney forces or that the latter will split with him on anything.

"As a matter of fact Mr. McKinney and I probably will be working closer together in the future than we have in the past," the Mayor said.

"We never have had any friction on political issues and I don't see any excuse for anyone presuming that there'll be any division of purpose in the future."

The Mayor pointed out that he had appointed on his City Hall staff "several of Mr. McKinney's closest friends," including his father, Fire Chief Roscoe McKinney.

Rumors Follow Attack

Rumors indicating a major factional split followed recent attacks by some organization workers against Mayor Feeney's failure to follow party lines in some of his appointments.

"Making official appointments to run the City government is the business of all the people, not just for a political organization," the Mayor said.

Prospective candidates for next spring's primary have been jockeying for position on a Feeney or anti-Feeney basis but the Mayor warned that many of them are in for a surprise.

"I'll Be Too Busy"

"I'll be too busy on my job here in City Hall to fight with anybody on politics," he said.

The feuding in party factions was renewed yesterday when County Democratic Chairman Paul McDuff fired Milton Craig, City Attorney and a member of Mayor Feeney's staff, as Third Ward Democratic chairman.

Chairman McDuff said he dismissed Mr. Craig from his organization staff because the ward chairman wrote a letter to Secretary of State Charles F. Fleming, inferring that Mr. McDuff ought to be removed from his job as director of automobile licenses in Marion County.

This was a continuation of the friction between Chairman McDuff's regular organization forces and Mayor Feeney over the latter's failure to follow recommendations of the Democratic organization in his City Hall appointments.

Fight Ends

Harry Gasper, key party aid to Chairman McDuff, carried the fight into the open recently when he circulated letters criticizing Mayor Feeney on his appointments.

Many of these McDuff-Gasper organization workers have been aligned closely with associates of Mr. McKinney and have taken sides accordingly.

But Mr. McKinney's assertion that he will stick close to Mayor Feeney "when the chips are down" will give workers in the regular organization something to think about in future alignments.

Local AVC to Hear National Chairman

Gilbert A. Harrison, national chairman of the American Veterans Committee of Washington, D. C., will be the featured speaker at an AVC meeting scheduled for Saturday at 7:30 p. m. at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Hall, 188 W. Ninth Street.

Speakers for AVC said more than 750 veterans are expected to attend the session at which such vital questions as public housing, civil rights and anti-inflation will be discussed.

The AVC was organized six years ago and boasts a nationwide membership.

South Side Man Found Shot to Death

Police last night were investigating the fatal shooting of Jack E. Davison, 53, of 1712 S. East St., who was found lying in his garage with a pistol wound in his right temple.

Mr. Davison was found dead by his wife and daughter, Jacqueline, three hours after he told them he was going to the garage to clean a gun. A pistol was found beside the other propeller-driven speedsters.

Jeweler Identifies Suspect in \$40 Theft

Rubin E. Kelso, owner of the Kelso Jewelry Co., 1537 N. Illinois St., yesterday afternoon identified by an unusual wrist watch one of three men who he said stole \$40 from his store earlier yesterday.

The three suspects, captured by police in the downtown area, were held for further questioning after Mr. Kelso told police he recognized a watch worn by one of the men.

They came into his store while he was waiting on other customers. Mr. Kelso said: "When he went to the back of his store to call his wife, the men gathered around the cash register, the other customers told police. They did not see the men take the money."

Right behind him was Stanley H. Reaver of Glendale, Cal., and Herman R. (Fish) Salmon, Van Nuys, Cal., speed flyer, in two of Mr. Mantz planes. Mr. Reaver won \$5000 for second place and Mr. Salmon's third place take was \$3500.

"Tickled Pink"

Mr. De Bona was elated as he stepped down from his souped up Mustang to be welcomed by Mr. Stewart and the star's bride. He had been beaten only by a minute and 18 seconds in 1947 in his duel with Mr. Mantz, the race's only three-time winner. Last year he was on Mr. Mantz' tail when lack of gas forced him down 80 miles short of Cleveland.

Jacqueline Cochran, another

Victim of Mr. Mantz in Bendix grinds, was on hand to tell De Bona she was "tickled pink" that he finally had copped the trophy.

Mr. Stewart was delighted, too, but he allowed that his financial backing of Mr. De Bona had "cost me more than I can afford."

Bill Odom Wins

Bill Odom, the round-the-world and long-distance solo flier, tried closed course racing for the first time today and ran away from the field to win the \$7500 Schindler trophy.

It was a day of crashing records. Maj. Vernon A. Ford of

Middleton, Pa., set a new jet record of 3 hours 45 minutes and 51.3 seconds, the first time that the course has been flown in less than four hours. The jets did not compete with Mr. De Bona and the other propeller-driven speedsters.

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