

Nye, 20 Years A Senator, Happy As Business Man

By ALDEN McLACHLAN
Staff Writer

The polished businessman from Maryland is greying slightly, and his face is somewhat thinner than when photographs were taken of him while he was the often-em-battled senator from North Dakota.

But Gerald P. Nye is looking fine. You wouldn't think he had tasted so many defeats and victories in his first 65 years.

There is no hint in Nye's recollections or manner of the bitterness which he voiced when he was last defeated for re-election to the Senate in 1946.



McLachlan

Since then, however, he has turned to private business and created a new, highly successful professional life.

Nye is spending a few days in Fargo on private business.

Two decades ago, as chairman of the Senate Munitions Committee which as he said the other day "was studying the causes of war," Nye was one of the most publicized senators. Disclosures of the committee earned Nye a reputation with many as a great leader in the fight for peace.

But his isolation policies brought him increasing public disapproval, and he was defeated in 1944 for re-election to his fourth term to the Senate. He ran again in the election of 1946 to name a successor to Sen. John Moses, who had died. Nye was defeated by Milton R. Young.

In the 34 years since Nye went to the Senate from Cooperstown, N. D., where he had been editor of the Griggs County Sentinel-Courier, the capitol city has grown like a weed. The home Nye in 1941 built in open country, 20 minutes by car from the center of Washington, is now surrounded by houses.

I suggested that he and others

* * *



GERALD P. NYE

in his position, who had continued to live there after losing elections or other jobs, were responsible for part of that growth. Why did he not leave Washington in 1944?

"Well, let's consider me," he answered. "I had been a weekly newspaper publisher, and he has to know how to set type, handle other 'back shop' duties, and write news stories and advertising. I had been away from it for 20 years, and I just couldn't have stepped back in and done the work."

"I just couldn't see myself back in a weekly newspaper."

Nye added: "And then, you make a lot of friends and ties in 20 years. Not the least of those ties are your golfing associates, believe it or not."

"Washington has a certain fascination too, and it's a beautiful city . . ."

* * *

So Nye got into the business of microfilming files and records of business and governmental agencies. From that he got into what is called "business engineering."

The firm of Nye-Mahan Associates of Washington studies procedures of business, professional and governmental agencies and recommends methods of streamlining. The idea is to help such groups save money and become more efficient.

The firm has done such jobs for many business firms in the nation, as well as for the Federal General Services Administration, the Post Office Department, and the states of Maryland and Virginia, among others.

I noted that there is a move afoot to either lease additional space or put up another office building for the State Capitol at Bismarck, N. D.

In addition, several other state institutions are requesting more space.

Nye said, in answer to a question, that it would cost the state of North Dakota approximately \$100,000 to \$125,000 for an analysis by his firm of the Capitol and other institutions of the state.

That sounds like a lot of money, but it isn't so much when compared with construction costs.

Nye said that Virginia had made plans for a new capitol building before his firm made its study. After the study was completed, the state decided it did not need two floors which it had planned in the new structure.

Nye-Mahan Associates has a study of the Gate City Building and Loan Assn. under way in Fargo. A. R. Bergesen, president of Gate City, told me later, "The study has gone to the point now where I am convinced that the cost of the study will be more than recovered in the first year of operation of the business after the study is complete."

From then on, he said, the savings will be so much profit.

Nye grinned when I asked him to relate a few memories of his political career, so that I could use the incidents as lumber for building a nostalgic article about his life and the times.

He seemed to be a man who is not encumbered by nostalgia, but he has a friendly way about him, and he is temperate in his political views.

Alger Hiss worked for the Munitions Committee in the mid-30's, for instance. Even then there were rumblings in Washington that Hiss had communistic leanings. Hiss, you will recall, was convicted of perjury in a trial in which claims were made that he was a Communist.

Among the charges, and many were wild, which were tossed at Nye, none were that he was a Communist. But he said of Hiss the other day:

"Hiss was a thoroughly able and competent investigator and analyst for the committee."

Hiss came to Nye one day and told him he was aware of the rumors in Washington that he had communistic ties. Hiss told Nye that he believed that for the good of the committee he should tender his resignation.

Nye said he told Hiss that he was only one member of the committee, and could not for that reason accept the resignation. So Hiss appeared before the committee soon thereafter.

The full committee refused to consider the resignation.

Nye did not favor "foreign entanglement" while he was a senator. He still does not.

"I feel more secure every day in the belief that it would have been the better part of wisdom to avoid all these entanglements on the international front. Now every time somebody gets a headache or a stomachache in the world the United States has to take care of that illness."

Nye added, however: "But it isn't anything you can run away from. The commitments have been made. We have to go as far as we can to stand by them."

Nye said he looks in on the Senate frequently.

"There isn't a soul in the Senate who was there when I first got there. It makes me feel kind of old," he said.

T
if t
ing
ing