

McGovern . . .

Continued from p. 1

program in that too surpluses were used to feed millions of hungry persons.

McGovern said he enjoyed the program, but almost everyone knew that he still desired that senate seat.

Sen. Francis Case, R.S.D., sought re-election in 1962. McGovern decided to oppose Case. The incumbent, however, succumbed to a heart attack and the Republicans had difficulty selecting a successor. After 10 hours and 20 ballots Atty. Gen. Joe Bottum emerged as the senatorial nominee of a badly-split Republican Party.

The contest always was close, but McGovern held the edge throughout the campaign. In early October, McGovern said he felt faint after delivering a speech in Sioux Falls. His aides rushed him to a Sioux City, Iowa hospital and learned that McGovern had contacted hepatitis.

McGovern was incapacitated until 10 days before the election. His wife Eleanor and the Kennedys came to his rescue. He squeaked by Bottum by 504 votes.

McGovern's fame spread after he spoke against the Vietnam War in 1963. In a few months, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., and Sen. Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, joined in McGovern's condemnation of Vietnam.

The presidency entered McGovern's mind in 1968 when Rep. Allard Lowenstein, D-N.Y., and the self-proclaimed organizer of the "Dump Johnson" movement, asked the senator to oppose Johnson in the 1968 Democratic primaries.

McGovern toyed with the notion, but decided to seek re-election to the senate because he considered the presidential bid "too risky."

After the assassination of his good friend, Robert F. Kennedy, McGovern tried to organize the RFK forces prior to the Democratic Party convention in Chicago.

McGovern launched his 1968 presidential campaign 23 days before the convention and garnered 146 and one-half votes.

Dismayed by the divided Chicago convention, McGovern sought to restructure the delegate selection process to include more young persons, minority individuals and women. He was chosen to head a Democratic Party committee to investigate selection procedures. The result was a new face for the 1972 Democratic convention.

In 1948 McGovern was only a student. Twenty years later he was a U.S. senator. But the battle between McGovern and Nixon continued.

He assailed the President's Vietnamization program. As chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, he flayed Nixon's policies concerning America's poor. McGovern also contested the Administration's defense budget.

The stage was set. The battle for the presidency had begun. On Jan. 19, 1971, McGovern announced his candidacy for president in Sioux Falls, S.D. The polls showed he was favored by only three per cent of the Democratic voters. He was an underdog once again.

The underdog tromped to New Hampshire and finished second to Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine, with a surprising 20 per cent of the total vote. Wisconsin was next. Massachusetts voted for McGovern. Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, California, New Mexico, New Jersey and New York followed, and McGovern emerged as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

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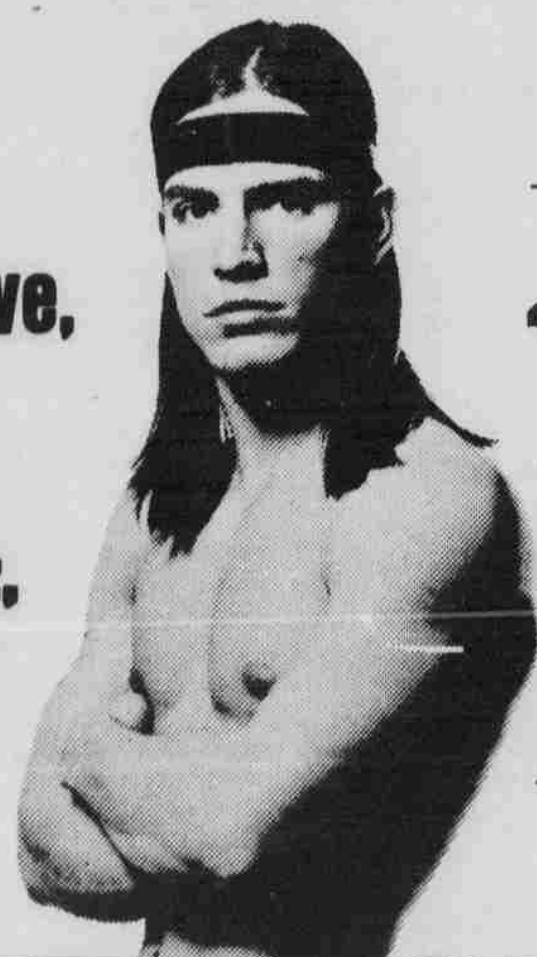
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