

Ickes, Ex-Secretary of Interior, Dies at 77

**SERVED 13 YRS.
IN CABINETS OF
2 PRESIDENTS**

**Headed Depression
Spending Agency**

(Picture on page 10)

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, died tonight.

Ickes, 77, died in Emergency hospital, where he had gone 11 weeks ago for treatment for complications of a former arthritic condition. He had returned to his home at Olney, Md., on Jan. 18, apparently much improved. He went back to the hospital 10 days later after he took a turn for the worse.

Named Secretary in 1933

Ickes was secretary of the interior in 1933 to 1946 and head of the public works administration during the depression years.

He made his home in Winnetka, a Chicago suburb, for many years before coming to Washington for service with the Democratic administration.

Ickes is survived by his widow, the former Jane Dahlman, whom he married in 1938 after the 1935 death of Mrs. Anna Wilmarth Thompson Ickes. Other survivors are a son, Raymond, by his first marriage, now a San Francisco lawyer; Harold, 12, and Elizabeth, 10, by his second marriage.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon in All Souls' [Unitarian] church in Washington. Burial will be at Sandy Spring, Md.

VETERAN OFFICE HOLDER

Harold Ickes served longer as secretary of interior than any other person in the 103 year history of that department. He held office from 1933 to 1946.

Ickes was one of the original Roosevelt New Dealers. Until named to that job, he never held public office. Known in his youth as the Winnetka Wildcat, he had been called everything in the books since.

In his autobiography, he called himself "The Old Curmudgeon," a term never clearly defined. He squawked and scolded for the 13 years he was secretary of interior and remained just as vituperative after his return to private life.

New Deal Donald Duck

He wore the label, "Honest Harold, the Donald Duck of the New Deal," and scores of others. Because of his stocky build—he was 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed about 200 pounds — friends called him the administration's little battle wagon.

Ickes was officially listed a Republican when Franklin D. Roosevelt named him to his cabinet, a definition which made Ickes a target of both major political parties. He had organized a midwest Independent Republican Committee for Roosevelt in 1932, a move which old line Democrats opposed, but whose criticism F. D. R. consistently ignored.

Ickes was born May 15, 1874, of Germanic and Scotch-Irish stock, on a farm in Franklin township, Blair county, near Hollidaysburg, Pa. His father was Jesse B. W. Ickes and his mother was Martha Ann McCune [McEwen].

Moves to Chicago

When he was 16 years old his mother died, and he went to Chicago to live with an aunt. There he completed a four year course in the Englewood High school in three years. Subsequently he worked his way thru the University of Chicago, mainly by teaching in public night schools. He was graduated in 1897 with a bachelor of arts degree.

He entered newspaper work on the old Chicago Record, progressing from the sports desk to the

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political staff, and covered the Republican and Democratic national conventions in Philadelphia and Kansas City in 1900.

Ickes' first political experience was acquired when, as a senior at the university, he became interested in the campaign of John Maynard Harlan, independent Republican, for mayor of Chicago. The principal issue was the municipal policy on street railways.

Ickes left his job as a political writer to campaign for Harlan when he ran again for mayor. Later he returned to the University of Chicago to study law. He was graduated cum laude with a degree of doctor of jurisprudence in 1907, and was admitted to the bar shortly thereafter.

In 1911, Ickes once again engaged in politics. He managed the campaign of Charles E. Merriam, Republican, for mayor. Altho Merriam was defeated, the experience gained enabled Ickes to engage in several notable struggles thereafter over traction and utility franchises.

Backed Hughes in 1916

In 1912 Ickes joined the Progressive party and served as its state leader for three years. He was also a member of the party's national committee. In 1916 when Theodore Roosevelt refused to run again as the Presidential candidate of the Progressives, Ickes backed Charles Evans Hughes on the Republican ticket. Hughes selected Ickes to work with former Progressives out of the Chicago campaign headquarters.

In 1920 Ickes became a delegate-at-large from Illinois to the Republican convention. He supported Gov. Frank O. Lowden of Illinois until the latter withdrew and then cast his vote for Hiram W. Johnson, senator from California. Warren G. Harding of Ohio was nominated, but Ickes refused to change his vote to make the nomination unanimous and during the subsequent campaign wrote a statement in support of the Democratic candidates, James M. Cox and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

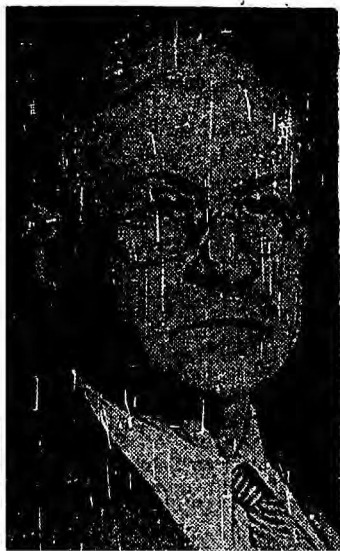
In 1924, Ickes was in charge in Illinois of Sen. Johnson's candidacy for the Republican Presidential nomination, opposing the incumbent, Calvin Coolidge. In 1928, Ickes was inactive, altho he voted for Alfred E. Smith, the Democratic nominee.

Appointed to Cabinet

In the 1932 campaign, he was chairman of the National Progressive League for Roosevelt and Garner and worked actively for the Democratic national ticket in the western states. After Roosevelt's inauguration, Ickes was appointed secretary of the interior.

In July of 1933, Ickes was appointed administrator of public works, a job in which he spent more than 4 billion dollars in public funds.

Notoriously lacking in tact, Ickes treated with great brusqueness many senators and representatives seeking allotments of public funds for projects in their constituencies. As a result there was great ill feeling against him in congress for several months and a number of incipient movements to get his scalp. Inasmuch as the President stood stanchly behind him, these outbreaks came



HAROLD L. ICKES

to nothing and the secretary eventually came into high favor on Capitol Hill.

The secretary enlivened the Washington scene with his frequent clashes with other high officials. The administration was not many months old before he and Postmaster General James A. Farley were at odds. As chief job dispenser, Farley undertook to parcel out some of the patronage in the interior department and the PWA. Ickes was determined to do the pie cutting in that jurisdiction himself.

Clashes with Farley

Farley had put Emil Hurja in the department to handle patronage matters. Ickes forced Hurja out and Farley was compelled to give Hurja an office in the Democratic national committee. During this period there were charges that the Ickes secret service was tapping the Farley telephone wires. But nothing came of the charges and eventually the two cabinet members became very friendly.

For a time Ickes and Harry Hopkins, the relief administrator, clashed over questions of jurisdiction in the multitudinous recovery projects. When new spending schemes were brought forward, it always was a question whether they were to be committed to Ickes or Hopkins. At one juncture, it looked as if either Ickes or Hopkins would be forced out of the administration. The President, however, managed to preserve peace and sealed it

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by taking both of them on a fishing cruise.

Ickes' bitter tongue and taste for scrapping won him many Roosevelt assignments to trounce administration foes. He swung the hatchet on everything and everyone the administration opposed and poured oil on problems confronting its programs and personnel.

An admirer of the late Wendell Willkie, Ickes nevertheless waged a scathing campaign against him when he was the Republican nominee for President in 1940, dubbing Willkie "the simple, bare-foot Wall street lawyer."

Likes, Dislikes Intense

Ickes' loyalties, likes and dislikes were intense. He was slow to make friends, rarely lost one, and rarely forgave an enemy. He liked to make what he called "wisecracks" and usually got in a jam when he tried to be funny.

In his fight against the nation's newspapers in the 1936 and 1940 campaigns, he drew their wrath when he declared:

"What we need is freedom from the press."

Ickes gave Washington society one of its biggest surprises in 1938 when he married a young Milwaukee society girl in Dublin, Ireland. Ickes was 64 at the time. The bride, Miss Jane Dahiman, was 25. His first wife, to whom he had been married 24 years, died in 1935 after an automobile accident in New Mexico.

Limousine Delivers Eggs

Ickes won new enemies during

World War II gasoline rationing. He built a private filling station on his Maryland estate but used a government truck to deliver the eggs produced on his farm to Washington grocery stores. At other times, he used the government limousine then assigned him to deliver the eggs to conserve his own gas ration coupons.

Ickes resigned from his cabinet post in February, 1946, when he sent President Truman a sharply worded letter in which he challenged the President's right to pass judgment on his "veracity." His resignation grew out of his outspoken opposition to the nomination of Edwin W. Pauley, California oilman and former treasurer of the Democratic national committee, to be undersecretary of the navy.

After his resignation he dab-

bled in politics and made an unsuccessful attempt to write a newspaper column. Last June he journeyed to Capitol hill to appear before a senate labor committee which was seeking a code of ethics for the federal government. He retained his usual pugnacious, nettlesome, and cantankerous attitude, using the occasion to lap at congress charging that it was responsible for the "hate and suspicion" which fills America.