

President Term Limit Uncertain

State Senate Approves
22nd Amendment,
27-18, but House Op-
position Is Strong

OLYMPIA, Feb. 20.—P—A test vote in the House today indicated the lower chamber may refuse to ratify the 22nd amendment to the United States Constitution unless the Republicans gather strength between now and the time the measure is finally considered.

The measure would limit the term of the President to 10 years or two elective terms. It passed the Senate 27 to 18 yesterday after prolonged and sharp debate. The Democrats generally opposed it while the Republicans backed it.

The test in the House came when the Senate-approved measure was brought up for first reading.

Speaker Charles Hodde assigned it to the committee on elections, a Democratic-controlled committee that has a similar measure before it.

Debate Is Sharp

Rep. Harold Zent, Spokane Republican, moved that it be referred to the committee on state government, a Republican-dominated committee.

Sharp debate followed and a call of the House was demanded before the House finally voted 51 to 46 to refer the measure to the committee on elections headed by Rep. Charles Savage, Shelton Democrat.

The vote was strictly along party lines with two exceptions: Reps. Z. A. Vane of Tacoma and Joseph E. Hurley of Spokane voted with the Republicans to put the bill in the Republican-controlled committee on state government.

If and when the measure is reported out of Savage's committee, it will go to the rules committee for a place on the calendar for eventual final consideration by the entire House.

The amendment has already been ratified by 30 of the 36 states needed to make it law.

Six Democrats joined the 21 Senate Republicans in approving the resolution yesterday, but the voting developed unusual political alignments.

Rosellini Opposed

Opponents included Sens. Albert Rosellini of Seattle, leader of so-called "regular" Democrats, and Jack Rogers of Bremerton, one of eight senators who drew the wrath of the "regulars" by joining Republicans to organize the upper chamber.

Sen. A. E. Edwards of Deming, crossed over to vote with the Republicans. Sens. Edward Riley of Seattle and Howard Roup of Astoria, members of Rogers' group of "dissidents," joined the minority under Rosellini.

Sen. Victor Zednick, Seattle Republican, led supporters of the ratification. Zednick said the proposed amendment already had been ratified by a "good portion of the states, both staunchly Republican and Democratic." He said some of the country's earliest leaders had called for a limitation on the presidential term of office.

Points To Constitution

Rosellini told the Senate ratification would tie the hands of the people. He said the "framers of the Constitution had not specified any number of terms."

Rogers, also spoke against the measure, said the limitation might force a man out of office during a period of crisis when his services were needed.

The Senate also approved 39-4 a bill which would extend the application of the limited access highway act to include certain highways, roads and streets.

The House defeated amendments proposed by opponents of a bill to extend some public school benefits to private and parochial school funds. The bill was passed to third reading for final passage today. Another hot session was expected.