

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1947

Presidential Term Limit Battle Is On

Democrats Would Put Question Up to Voters— Republicans Want Imme- diate Ratification.

Boston, April 10 (AP)—Debate on a proposed ratification by the legislature of a U. S. constitutional amendment to limit presidential terms to two, is certain to bring out the old phrase—"Now the shoe is on the other foot."

Democratic members of the committee on constitutional law indicated at the public hearing on the congressional resolution the other day that they would demand that the question be submitted to the voters.

Some of the Republican members of the committee, who are in the majority, indicated that they would press for immediate ratification of the amendment by the legislature.

Several pointed out that the U. S. constitution provides for approval of proposed amendments by three quarters of the legislatures of the 48 states.

The Democrats at the hearing seized upon the fact that in the last 25 years all U. S. constitutional amendments have been referred to the voters for approval.

Members of the committee pointed out that this was not required by law, nor was the vote of the people binding upon the legislature.

In fact, one member who did some research, dug out a copy of a constitutional law committee report back in 1932 on the Lame Duck amendment, which set the beginning of the President's term in office in mid-January instead of on the traditional March 4.

In that case, the Republican chairman of the committee, former Senate President Joseph R. Cotton, now a justice of the land court, filed a report for the committee in which he recommended that the amendment be held over for a year so that the voters could express their opinion in the 1932 fall election.

In that case all the Democratic members of the committee dissented, and demanded that the legislature act immediately upon the amendment, as was its right under the law.

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