

The Presidential Terms Two Local Districts Favored 2-Term Limit, Other Opposed, To Guide Reps.

Two out of Holyoke's three representatives in the House should vote for the constitutional amendment limiting the President of the United States to two terms.

They will vote for that amendment if they choose to abide by the wishes of their constituents. These representatives are Gerald Bowler of the 12th Hampden district (Wards 3 and 6) and William T. Dillon of the 14th District (Wards 5 and 7).

In the 12th District (Wards 1, 2, and 3), Rep-elect Maurice Donahue will not be duty bound to vote for this amendment because his district voted against it.

Massachusetts gave a decided majority to referendum No. 8 on the November state ballot which concerned limiting the President to two terms of service. Holyoke's vote was: yes, 11,108, and no, 8,897. There were 9493 blanks.

The 12th District voted it down and in that district only two precincts, 4-B and 4-D, gave a majority for yes. In the 13th District, all precincts except 6-A voted in favor; and in the 14th District, all of the precincts were favorable to the two-term amendment to the Constitution.

There is nothing binding about this vote, but it is felt that the impact of it will be felt by the legislators. Secretary of State Frederic W. Cook has written to City Clerk Joseph Jubinville, Jr., to report the vote for representatives in the three districts.

An analysis of this two-term amendment approval in Massachusetts causes considerable surprise inasmuch as the Bay State went Democratic from top to bottom and this amendment is displeasing to some Democrats who feel it to be slighting the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Politically speaking, the Democratic Party regards the proposed amendment as an implied criticism of the third and fourth term campaigns of President Roosevelt.

The amendment was sponsored and passed in the Republican dominated 80th Congress in 1947.

Since the date, 21 states have ratified the amendment. Fifteen more states must follow suit before the debate is over. Action must be taken within seven years. The Legislature arrived in its present position in a round-about fashion.

While still under Republican control earlier this year, the Massachusetts Legislature decided to ask the people their views on the proposed constitutional amendment.

It had been unsuccessfully submitted at the previous session when the House also voted to submit it to the voters and the Senate refused to concur.

So, in accordance with Section 18 of Chapter 53 of the General Laws, the Legislature made its 1948 decision. That section of the state laws said the people should be asked: "Is it desirable that the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States (describing the same) be ratified by the General Court?"

Under normal circumstances — judging by Democratic positions in Congress and in other states — the local Democrats could be counted on to oppose the referendum.

The only Democratic states, both in the conservative wing of the Democratic Party, to ratify the amendment were Virginia and Mississippi. Oklahoma defeated the amendment.

But in Massachusetts, Democrats apparently believed they had their hands full in promoting their candidates — or weren't concerned over belated criticism of President Roosevelt.

They also were aiding labor and church organizations in downing four other referendums, three labor and one birth control.

Therefore, there was little interest in the amendment and it undoubtedly reaped its share of "yes" votes for that reason. Political observers say a "yes" vote

is a natural tendency in such instances.

The amendment, as shaped by the Republicans — who were certain President Truman was on his way out — would allow him to run again in 1952.

However, in the future when a vice-president succeeds the president and serves more than two years of his predecessor's unexpired term, he could — under the amendment — be elected only once.

Other states that have acted favorably on the amendments are New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New York, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado, Oregon and California.

Wants Aldermen To Think About City Hall Hours

Mayor Toepfert wants the Board of Aldermen to take action on the working schedule for office employees in the various city departments. Since some of the offices have instituted a five-day week, the mayor said it is up to the aldermen to straighten out the matter. He has conferred with President Ernest W. Brunault of the Board of Aldermen today and requested that the subject be discussed at the Dec. 7th meeting.

The aldermen set the working schedules for municipal employees, the mayor said today, and therefore he feels it is up to them to settle the issue. Meanwhile, he has instructed City Solicitor Joseph F. Kelly to confer with Atty. Gen. Clarence A. Barnes on the interpretation of the amended 40-hour work week for municipal office employees, who now work a 35½-hour week.

The mayor said today that if it is necessary to close the City Hall offices on Saturday this would cut the work week down to 32½ hours. However, he contends the aldermen could establish new working hours such as opening the offices at 8:30 in the morning instead of at 9 a. m. and also cutting the lunch period from 1½ hours to one hour.

STUDENTS SUSPENDED FOR FRANK AT HARVARD

CAMBRIDGE (AP) — Eight Massachusetts Institute of Technology students were under suspension today as result of a plan to blast the initials of their school in the turf at Harvard Stadium with an explosive.

Dr. Everett M. Baker, M. I. T. Dean of Students, said a ninth student was placed on probation.

The rank was discovered three days before last Saturday's football game between Harvard and Yale.

Czech Spy Ring Smashed

FRANKFURT, Germany, (AP) — The U. S. Army says it has smashed a Czechoslovak spy ring which had been getting data on American troops and installations. "Approximately 20 persons were arrested," the announcement said.

All those arrested, except one who claimed Czech nationality, were either from the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia or were native Germans.

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