

## Keyes Family Estate, Haverhill, NH 2012



“For three hours yesterday, I chatted with Henry Wilder Keyes, senior United States Senator from New Hampshire, at his beautiful home in New Hampshire. We talked of the problems of the next Congress, the probable issues and candidates in the next presidential election, and the senator’s own plans to seek re-election.” — *Albert S. Baker writing in the New York Times, November 27, 1935*



# Republican Prospects For Election In 1936 Brighter Daily, Says Senator Keyes

**Asserts Party's Presidential Candidate Should Come from Middle West and Vice-President from East, But Names No One**

**Sees Townsend Plan 'A Bothersome Issue'**

**Advocates Use of Federal Funds to Eliminate Grade Crossings; Sees Relief Spendings as Wasteful**

By ALBERT S. BAKER

For three hours yesterday I chatted with Henry Wilder Keyes, senior United States Senator from New Hampshire, at his beautiful home in Haverhill.

We talked of the problems of the next Congress, the probable issues and candidates in the next presidential election, and of the senator's own plans to seek re-election.

Senator Keyes was New Hampshire's war governor. On the wall of his personal library hangs an autographed picture of five New England governors of the World War period engaged in the conference from which they returned to their home states to set up committees on public safety.

Then, as now, Keyes wore a mustache. Then, as now, he had the carriage of an athlete. He is a little more bowed perhaps today than he was then, but still interested in athletics, still willing to reminisce of the days when he held the crimson tipped oar in a winning Harvard boat which is firmly lashed over his fireplace and to talk of the smashing of the four mile record at New London when rowing against a Columbia crew. On his mantle piece is a silver bowl, presented to Keyes by the members of a crew which he coached to victory.

**Appears in Good Health**

The senator has been having a cold of the typical fall variety so well known to New Englanders. But outside of that one would hardly credit from his appearance, speech, or carriage those rumors of ill health which at one time were tied in with reports that there might be no Keyes candidacy for a fourth term in the senate of the United States.

Keyes was first elected to the senate in the election of 1918.

"George Moses, and I," the senator recalled, "were elected to the senate on the same day. But because he ran for the short term as successor to the late Senator Jacob H. Gallinger, and I for the long term as successor to Henry Hollis, he took his seat a few months ahead of me."

Early in that campaign there had been three candidates for the nomination in the Republican primary. They were Keyes, Moses, and ex-Governor Rolland Spaulding. As the candidates were lining up Senator Gallinger died. Moses withdrew from the primary contest to seek and win the nomination by convention for Gallinger's unexpired term.

**Twice on Ticket With Winant**

Since that first campaign Senator Keyes has been returned to the senate twice without opposition in his own party. He was unopposed in 1924 when John G. Winant, now chairman of the federal Social Security Board, won his first nomination. To win, Winant defeated Frank Knox, Manchester and Chicago publisher now among the prominently mentioned for the Republican presidential nomination in the Republican primary and in the election he defeated then governor, now senator, Fred H. Brown of Somersworth, Keyes present day colleague.

Again in 1930 Winant was the winner in a three-cornered battle for the gubernatorial nomination in the Republican primary while Keyes was sliding into a nomination for his third term in the senate without an opponent.

Twice, therefore, as he has been elected to the senate, Keyes has been a running mate on the Republican ticket with John G. Winant.

**Working On Unemployment Compensation**

These events were recalled as the senior Senator spoke of his plans to return to Washington 'about Thanksgiving time' where he will sit as a member of a special congressional committee to consider an amendment to the Social Security Law which Winant and two associates are now charged with administering.

That proposed amendment, interestingly is to the unemployment compensation section of the federal law—a problem with which New Hampshire is now wrestling. The amendment to be considered deals with the question as to whether corporations which now have unemployment compensation and pension systems of their own, where terms are more favorable than those of the federal law, shall be exempted from the scope of the federal law and permitted to continue their own plans.

If decisions like that of the General Electric Company yesterday, under which that company abandoned its plan, are numerous, however, the study may become more academic than had been anticipated.

"I strongly favored a provision for preserving the private plans in the Social Security Act," Keyes said. "Such plans would have been saved under what was known as the 'Clark amendment' and which was adopted by the Senate. I fought for it until it was obvious the amendment had to be abandoned or there would be no bill at all but was glad of the decision which provided for the study we are now about to undertake and which will be the basis for a report to the next Congress."

**Sees Fast Action On Funds**

To a question on the point Senator Keyes indicated that there is "no reason now discernible" why it should take the new Congress very long to provide funds to finance the Social Security Act. These funds were lost in the filibuster conducted by the late Huey Long in the last Congress.

Because New Hampshire depended upon federal grants to administer its unemployment compensation law the legislature appropriated only \$1,000 for preliminary work. The loss of the federal funds therefore created for the state a problem which is still perplexing. Senator Keyes prediction of fast action will be "good news."

As the only member of the Senate to serve on both the appropriations and finance committees of the Senate, Keyes had about the busiest spot on the Congressional team when the huge appropriation bills and tax measures were under consideration at the last session. Under Congressional procedure the appropriations committee of the Senate deals with spendings, the finance committee with taxes and revenues. Senator Keyes therefore is on the inside of both the incoming and outgoing revenue processes of the federal government.

**Watches State Politics**

"I have no plan," Senator Keyes asserted when drawn to the subject of the 1936 election and his intent to seek another term. "I am going to wait and see."

The senator is aware, of course, that for the first time since he was first a candidate for the Senate in 1918 he is threatened with opposition, possibly a three cornered fight.

On his desk was a copy of a metropolitan newspaper carrying an interview with his former colleague in the Senate, George Moses, in which the Concord man discussed the "pros" and "cons" of his possible entry into the Senatorial race. Governor Bridges is known to be a potential candidate as is Second District Congressman and former Governor Charles W. Tobey of Temple.

**Puzzled By Moses Enigma**

The senator smiled but declined to discuss personalities.

One gathered, however, that the senator is puzzled, rather than disturbed, at the prospects of a possible primary contest with Moses. One could almost sense a personal regret that there

was even a chance that the two who had served New Hampshire side by side in the Senate for 12 years may be contestants one against the other in a battle which could easily become quite bitter. The impression was distinctly one of perplexity as contrasted with a fear of consequences or result.

Senator Keyes and ex-Senator Moses met a few weeks ago in Concord.

"We had a pleasant chat," Keyes reported, "and talked about everything but the senatorial election of 1936."

Keyes discussion of congressional problems for the next session was as much concerned with the past as with the future. He indicated his anticipation that relief will again be the big issue and was decisive in his opinion that "administration" of the huge federal relief funds has been a failure characterized by "great waste."

**Sees Relief Stand Vindicated**

"I did everything I could," he said, "to cut the \$4,800,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000 because I believed the bigger amount couldn't be spend before congress would be in session again with an opportunity to consider then what ought to be done."

"It is now proven that \$2,000,000,000 would have been ample. I believe that we ought to make every effort to have the states and local communities take over their relief problems and that the federal government ought to continue a relief program, at least in the present form, only as a last resort."

"My disposition, all the way through consideration of the relief problem, was one of wanting to help find a way out of the situation."

"To my mind the program has not been as successful as it was hoped it would be. There has been a tremendous waste of money. I doubt if such a program can be successfully directed from Washington."

**Sees Big Waste In Relief**

"The appropriations committee was told when we were considering this \$4,800,000,000 appropriation that set-ups were all ready to put the spending plan into effect. We were told that within two weeks after the passage of the bill the administrators would be able to place very substantial numbers of men at work and that large numbers of 'employables' would be taken off relief rolls entirely. Now after nine or 10 months there has been no material reduction in this huge fund and there are almost as many unemployed as there were a year ago, according to my information."

Keyes has no pet scheme for meeting the problems but he indicated with clarity that if federal spendings are to be continued they should be for public works of permanent benefit to the public rather than for projects of little or no future use. He indicated a further opinion that the projects should be selected partially on consideration of future maintenance costs.

"Maintenance of some of the projects which have been constructed will be a tremendous tax burden on government units in the future," the senator said.

**Praises N. H. Program**

"That is one reason why I considered the water resources program worked out in New Hampshire as one of the finest of its kind in the country," Keyes said. "There is a program which is closely allied to forestry conservation, in which I have been interested so many years."



The senator is now the senior member in point of service of the National Forestry commission, began his service when the so-called Weeks law first went into operation, and has seen the federal forest program expand from ownership of a small acreage on the Atlantic coast to a truly national system now embracing the

Redwoods of the Pacific.

"If a federal works program is to be continued," Senator Keyes believed, "that is one type of project that ought to be provided. Not only is it of permanent value and offering opportunity for quick employment of large numbers, but its self-liquidating characteristics, and useful maintenance features appeal to me. But as a New Hampshire man I would like to be sure that New Hampshire gets fully as much of the benefits as our Massachusetts friends down the streams."

#### Wants Grade Crossing Eliminated

Another type of works project that Keyes would like to see assured if federal work relief programs are to be continued is grade crossing elimination.

"Grade crossing elimination was supposed to be one of the big things in this \$4,000,000,000 program," Keyes said. "It was one of the few things we heard a lot about in specific terms when the bill was under consideration."

"So far as I have been able to learn," Keyes said, "nothing much has been done about grade crossing elimination except in two states."

If one has ever driven over the road between Concord and Haverhill, and beyond to Bath, Senator Keyes interest in grade crossing elimination can be readily and sympathetically appreciated.

Reviewing the promise and performance on grade crossing eliminations Keyes said he saw a tendency toward definite allotment of funds to projects by congress in future programs rather than leaving allotments to the president.

In addition to serving on the appropriation and finance committees, Senator Keyes holds membership on three others.

He admittedly enjoys his work with that on naval affairs. His pride in his work on the public buildings committee is well known.

#### Talks of Taft

"I had hoped," the senator said, "that I could be present when the new Supreme Court building was dedicated. I had charge of that bill and well remember the discussions we had with former president and later Chief Justice Taft. Most often they were at his home in the evening. The court was busy during the day and so were we. He was a genial host and of great help in framing the plans."

Once more Senator Keyes recollections indicated that problems in New Hampshire are not so much different, except in degree, as those in Washington.

"When I first went to Washington" he said, "there was no plan for public buildings. They were constructed in the capital and thought the nation largely on the basis of individual influence. In Washington we were paying out \$1,000.00 a year in rent.

We thought we could improve the capital and at the same time save the rent. So we made a plan and built the buildings. We had achieved our objective and brought the administrative units of the government together when the 'new deal' came along. Now we are paying out \$2,000,000 in rent instead of a million. But this is due to all these new agencies which have been created. And they are certainly champions when it comes to putting folks on the payroll. In addition we have had a plan in operation for five years with respect to federal buildings outside of Washington."

There was no federal budget law when Senator Keyes first entered the senate.

#### Favors Adequate Navy

"Congress just appropriated money and hoped the income would be enough to pay the bills," he observed. "Now we have a budget law even though" and the senator smiled, "we can't balance it."

In addition to relief and a balanced budget Senator Keyes saw defense appropriations as one of the big problems of the next congress particularly those for the navy in view of the approaching naval conference at London.

"The present treaty expires shortly," the senator observed. "Unless we can get a new agreement the whole naval question will be wide open. In that event there will arise the question as to what national policy we should pursue."

"I am convinced that the people of the United States want a navy which is up to the strength authorized by the present treaty. While I know they do not want a navy for bigness alone they want the navy we have kept up and improved. Many of our vessels are now obsolete. That is one matter which some people do not understand when they read of naval appropriations of many millions of dollars. These appropriations are not for increased naval strength. They are largely for replacements."

Problems of Congress will largely be the issues of the presidential campaign in Keyes opinion. That the 'new deal' will be on trial went without saying.

"I look for the Townsend plan of old age pensions to be a bothersome issue," Keyes said. He noted the "impossibility" of explaining the constantly changing proposals which have become known as the Townsend plan.

Never have Congressmen had the experience of such a volume of mail as has been produced through advocacy of this scheme, the senator explained.

At its height more than 50,000 letters a day were handled at the senate office building. So great was this volume that senators could not attempt to answer the letters.

"Not only was I surprised at the

volume of mail from New Hampshire," the Senator added, "but the letters are still coming. I get a few almost every day."

#### Republican Prospects Gaining

The discussion turned from congressional problems and election issues to Republican party prospects.

"Prospects for Republican success are increasing every day," Keyes said. "There is no question but that President Roosevelt will be re-nominated. The question is 'Can the Republican party find the right candidate to win?' Personally I have felt that the presidential candidate should come from the middle west, and the vice-presidential candidate from the east where we have a number of good men to consider."

As to individuals, however, Senator Keyes preferred to remain uncommitted.

And as to his own plans.

"Since I have been in the Senate," he replied, "I have tried not to spread over too much ground. I have been interested in constructive achievement in certain fields, particularly forest conservation and the public building program. I am going back to Washington to do my job. I hope the President is right when he forecasts a short session because I want to get back here. But we have heard talk of a short session before. As for campaigning, I am going to wait on that. If necessary one can do a little from Washington if he has to, you know."



Clearly interested in seeking a fourth term, and announcing as such, Keyes was edged out when popular first term Governor Styles Bridges and his former Senate Colleague, George H. Moses, filed for the seat he had held for three terms.

## Senator Keyes Definitely Reelection Candidate

G. O. P. Solon Spikes Concord 'Political Guess' He Will Withdraw in Favor of Moses; Reiterates Announcement Made Months Ago

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

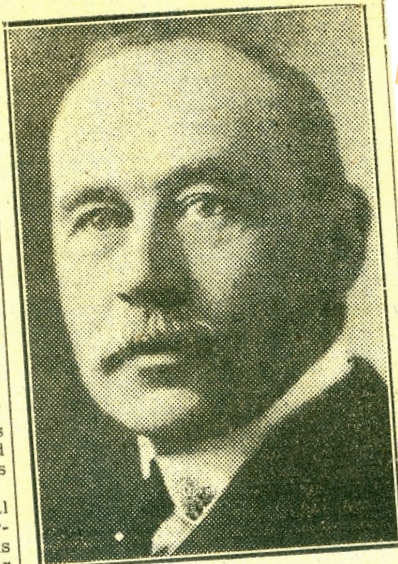
CONCORD, Sept. 12.—There have been some wild political yarns emanating from Concord of late but the prize of the lot came today with the announcement that U. S. Sen. Henry W. Keyes would withdraw in favor of former Senator George H. Moses.

Senator Keyes, many months ago, signified his intentions of seeking renomination. Within a few days Charles C. Wright, secretary of the senator, made the statement that his boss would be in the Republican primary next year questing another term.

"I have every expectation of running for the Senate again in 1936," Mr. Keyes told the Associated Press when confronted with the Concord political guess work. "The reports are without foundation."

Some of the most absurd political yarns in many years have been circulated within the last few weeks including one which said that Major Francis P. Murphy would withdraw as a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination; that Governor Bridges would seek reelection and former Senator Moses would be a candidate for the billet now held by Senator Keyes.

Major Murphy said recently he was in the governor fight to stay and now comes Senator Keyes' reiteration of his intention to seek another term.



SEN. HENRY W. KEYES

One thing is certain; there will be no political announcements from any quarters until next year. It is doubtful if they come before the Presidential primary in March. Even the governor is not discussing his future political ambitions and Congressman Charles W. Tobey is keeping mum on the subject.

## Bridges To Be Candidate For GOP Nomination For Senate, Opposing Keyes

Sen. Keyes Announces He Will Not Run, Leaves Field Open to Bridges and Moses

### ELIMINATES SELF FROM CONTEST IN BRIEF STATEMENT

Prefers to "Retire from Active Participation in Public Life"

HAS SERVED IN UPPER BRANCH FOR 18 YEARS

Way Cleared for Sharp Battle Between Gov. Bridges and Moses

U. S. Sen. Henry W. Keyes caused a decided stir in Republican political circles late yesterday, when he announced from his home in Haverhill that he will not file as a candidate for renomination, "but will retire from active participation in public office."

In a telegram to The Union and Leader the senior senator declared: "I thought you might be interested to know that it is not my intention to file as a candidate for the United States Senate at the coming primary election. I prefer to retire from active participation in public office."

18 Years in Senate.  
In this terse message Mr. Keyes eliminates himself from public life after a successful career in the Senate over a span of about 18 years. He was first elected in 1918 and has been renominated at two succeeding state elections.

The announcement by the Republican senator clears the field for a sharp battle within the party to replace him, between Gov. H. Styles Bridges and former U. S. Sen. George H. Moses, both of whom are in the heat of the contest. The two-sided fray brings the state's outstanding vote-getters in conflict for the first time. Governor Bridges is nearing the end of his administration as chief executive, while Mr. Moses, defeated for reelection by years ago, has managed to keep in constant touch with the political situation in New Hampshire since his retirement.

Senator Keyes announced last year in Washington that he would seek another term and his position was restated by Charles C. Wright, secretary to Mr. Keyes, upon his return to New Hampshire from Washington several weeks ago.

However, the politicians have found no instances where the senior senator has been active in the campaign up to the present time. He has made no speeches, made no contacts and refrained from building up an organization. In fact, all indications have pointed to his withdrawal from the field, although no dolester would predict such action.

His declaration to this newspaper is the first inkling he has given of story in which it was stated that political leaders have been baffled by the silence in the Keyes camp.

## To Contest For Senate Seat?



SENATOR KEYES



GOVERNOR BRIDGES



# Portrait of former governor Keyes being presented in Concord today

◆**The right man:** After a mix-up with identities, a painting of former New Hampshire governor Henry Wilder Keyes will join other governor portraits that hang in the State House.

By GARRY RAYNO  
State House Bureau

**CONCORD** — A portrait of former Gov. Henry Wilder Keyes will finally take its rightful place along the second floor hallway of the State House this week.

Today, the Executive Council will accept Keyes' newly-painted portrait from the Governor Henry W. Keyes Portrait Committee. The group of family and family friends of the late governor is raising money to pay for the portrait of Keyes done by award-winning artist Craig Pursely of Bath.

Keyes of North Haverhill served one term as governor from 1917 to 1919 and three terms in the U.S. Senate from 1919 to 1937.

A photograph of Keyes used on a campaign poster when he first ran for the U.S. Senate is the model for the portrait.

Former state representative Dean Dexter, whose grandmother knew Keyes' wife, is heading up the effort to raise money for the portrait, but said the committee wanted to present the portrait to the state under Gov. John Lynch's watch.

"We did not want this to drag on for a couple of years," Dexter said. "The painter did the job so quickly, we would like to get this done as soon as possible."

Last summer, Dexter first raised the issue of the authenticity of the Keyes portrait that hung in the State House.

What was thought to be the Keyes portrait was found in the Legislative Office Building in 2005 and was determined to be a portrait of Keyes by then state curator Russell Bastedo.

The portrait has hung on the second floor hallway with the portraits of other governors since that time until it was removed last summer after the Joint Legislative Historical Committee voted in August to remove it.

In September, the portrait of Keyes was determined to actually be a portrait of Jacob Hart Ela, a former state representative and congressman from Rochester.

The Senate research staff identified Ela by studying the portraits in past issues of the



This is the official portrait of former New Hampshire Gov. Henry Wilder Keyes by artist Craig Pursely of Bath, Maine.

*"We did not want this to drag on for a couple of years. The painter did the job so quickly, we would like to get this done as soon as possible."*

**DEAN DEXTER**  
leading portrait fundraising

NH Manual of the General Court or Red Books.

When the historical committee met in August, Dexter gave lawmakers a letter from Keyes' granddaughter, Frances Parkinson Keyes Keidel, stating the man in the portrait is not her grandfather.

Keidel and another grandchild Peter Keyes worked with Dexter to have a new portrait commissioned. They will all be at the ceremony today.

The caretaker of the Keyes farm, Carl Nystrom, told Dexter he knew of a local artist who could do the portrait. Nystrom had done work on Pursely's home in return for a number of civil war portraits.

Nystrom later showed the portraits to Keidel and Dexter. Keidel visited Pursely's studio, the American Heritage Gallery of Art, and looked at his work, some of which hangs in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and the Ronald Reagan

Presidential Library.

"She told me I had the job and I was really happy about that," Pursely said.

Pursely had visited the State House several years before because of his interest in early American portraits and took some pictures of his favorites including one done by renowned painter Edmund Tarbell of former Gov. Roland Spaulding, which will be next to his portrait of Keyes.

While he was struggling with the color of Keyes face, Pursely said he brought the work to the State House put it on the wall and then looked at the Spaulding portrait and another down the hall.

"I sat down on the stairs and made notes. Why was Tarbell's different than mine? . . . I studied to see what I needed to adjust," Pursely said. "The next time (I worked on the face) it was fine."

The council meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the Executive Council Chambers in the State House.

[grayno@unionleader.com](mailto:grayno@unionleader.com)