

Demos to keep House majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House that voters will elect tomorrow by all indications, will show about the same party division as its predecessor — overwhelmingly Democratic. But it will not be a carbon copy.

At least one-third of the representatives sworn in next January probably will have not more than two years' previous service.

The outgoing House was split exactly two to one — 280 Democratic seats, 145 Republican.

Election prospect estimates by Democratic and Republican analysts, agree, at least privately, with those by outside estimators within a notably narrow range. Almost without exception, they point to a net shift of few more than a dozen seats, at the most.

Republicans are favored to make a small gain, if only because the post-Watergate election of 1974 swept in an abnormally large Democratic freshman class, some from normally Republican districts.

Newly elected in 1974 and in subsequent special elections to fill vacancies were 79 Democrats and 19 Republicans.

There will be an absolute minimum of 53 new members in the incoming House. That many seats are open because of death, retirement and primary defeat. Almost certainly there will be even more new faces. It is hardly possible that every incumbent seeking re-election will succeed.

So, depending on how the presidential election comes out, Jimmy Carter will be seeking the cooperation of, or President Ford will be confronting, a heavily Democratic House with a proportion of junior members unmatched in recent years.

It could be a feisty House. The 1974 Democratic freshmen, working with some restless older members, made a major dent in the hallowed seniority system, toppling three committee chairmen and forcing changes in the House's ways of doing business, with the role of the party caucus strengthened.

First terms are obvious targets when they come up for re-election. But the Democratic powers in the House have worked hard to help their fresh men dig in, emphasizing service to constituents with problems, and arranging for expert coaching in office organization and campaigning.

All 435 House seats are to be voted on tomorrow. But fewer than 100 of the contests are considered strenuous races, in which an incumbent, or the party of a departing member,

is in much danger of losing. Even of these races no more than half are seen as exceptionally tight. Forty-five Democrats and six Republicans have no major party opposition.

Unless the estimators are all wrong—and the extent of their agreement is impressive — the balance of wins and losses in about 5 races will determine the exact makeup of the new House. This would even allow for a few surprises.

One Democrat willing to predict on the record was Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass. Without identifying the particular races he said Democrats are confident of winning eight seats now held by Republicans and have excellent chances in 20 other contests. He wouldn't concede any Democratic defeats, but acknowledged 11 or 12 "tough ones."

His summing up was squarely within the range other analysts of both parties had staked out off the record: "We say the Democrats will be somewhere between 275 and 285. We could win a few."

Republicans would be happy to pick up 15 seats and overjoyed with 20. Democrats talk hopefully of holding their losses to 10 and, like O'Neill, do not rule out the chance of a marginal pickup.

Some Democratic sources, however, admitted concern over factors that could hurt their chances in the final days of the campaign. One is money.

Spokesman for both the Republican and the Democratic national congressional committees agreed that, among the party bodies that augment candidates' individual fundraising with special grants, Republicans have heavily outspent Democrats.

A Republican source put the combined spending on House races by the Republican National Committee, the congressional committee and the Republican Boosters' Club at about \$3.4 million.

The Democratic National Committee, a Democratic source said, does not contribute to House campaigns. The main national source of funds is the congressional committee, he said, and it has spent only about \$375,000. Other small funds could boost the total to about \$700,000.

Neither side appeared to attach much importance to any coattail aid House candidates might get from a presidential victory by their party's candidate, except in particular circumstances. A Ford sweep of the President's home state of Michigan, for example, might cut into Democratic chances of capturing some Republican seats they have been eyeing.

The scandals and allegations of wrongdoing that plagued the Democratic 94th Congress do not appear to have added up to an effective issue to be used against Democrats generally. Some of those involved are not running. Most of the others appear to be ahead in their races. An exception is Rep. Allen T. Howe, D-Utah, who is appealing a conviction of soliciting a woman for prostitution and has been disowned by his local party.

Williams wants to hold down taxes

Editor's note: Because of scheduling conflicts on the part of Albert Williams and The Daily Collegian, an in-depth personal interview could not be arranged. With Mr. Williams' consent, the Collegian has compiled statements he made previously on major issues.

By JAY BOOKMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

Albert F. Williams, the Republican candidate for the 77th Legislative seat, says the main issue in the campaign is taxes.

"The taxpayer has had it with the bureaucracy's insatiable appetite for more and more spending and unquenchable thirst for more and more taxes," he said at a candidates' night last week sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

He is opposed to any increase in taxes until reforms and economies in state government are enacted. If, after these reductions are instituted, tax increases are necessary, he

says he will support them.

He also is opposed to the adopting of a state graduated income tax, which is similar to the taxation system the federal government uses, because of the loopholes and deductions inherent in the tax.

"It is so complex and confusing that only the rich can afford the high-priced lawyers and accountants needed to take advantage of its loopholes," he said.

"He (Gov. Shapp) and his group, which includes my opponent, will have to prove that it will lighten the load on the middle-income working class, retirees and the small-business citizen of Pennsylvania and not be a loophole haven for special big interests," he said.

Williams feels the tax would hit the people in the middle income bracket the hardest, and thinks the current flat tax is the most equitable method of taxation available.

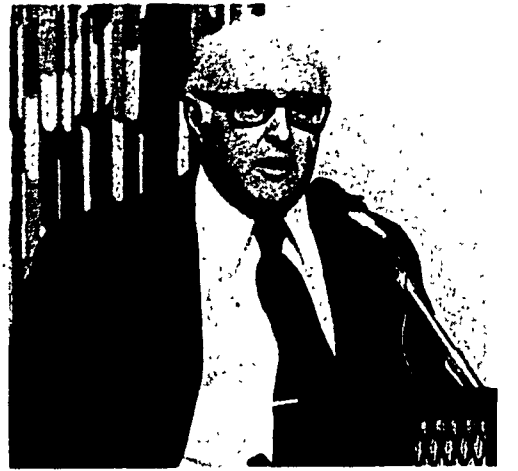
He has heard from both sides on the issue

of the lowering of the drinking age, but remains undecided. He said he is willing to support a move to place the issue on the ballot and would be willing to introduce the bill.

Williams says that, if elected, he will be a full-time legislator even though he will keep his insurance business. He said his wife and associates can run the business effectively without him, as they did in 1961 when he was called, as a member of the armed forces reserves, to Germany in answer to the Berlin crisis.

He has said he believes that rent control legislation is unworkable, but says that he is in favor of a landlord-tenant bill that would guarantee rights to both.

Williams has been active in politics although he has never held office. He currently is a Republican State Committeeman, and has been former chairman of the Centre County Republican party, as



well as the State College area chairman. He has been a businessman in State College for 25 years.

Wise emphasizes full-time availability

By JAY BOOKMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

Collegian: Why do you think being a full-time legislator is a major issue in this campaign?

Wise: I think it is an issue because in a recent survey in the State College area, it turned out to be the second concern of the people. Potholes were first. I think more and more in the whole Commonwealth, people are going to demand that their legislators serve full time, without any commercial or business interests at home. It makes it difficult, but I think it's absolutely necessary that it be a full-time job.

Collegian: What are your feelings concerning rent control and tenants' rights?

Wise: I've consistently said that I would favor a landlord-tenant bill that would guarantee fairness and due process to both sides. I think there are problems inherent in both. I'm not backing any specific bill because I'm not that familiar with it. I think we need a bill very badly in the state to guarantee some minimums, and then local districts could go above that.

I would certainly favor looking into rent control, but I honestly don't know what the state can do, whether there can be minimum legislation or not. I don't have a yes or a no answer, but I think it ought to be looked into.

Collegian: What is your basic fiscal policy?

Wise: My basic fiscal policy is that in the next two or three years in the general assembly there will have to be some tax revisions. There has been no tax increase in the past five years and that's good. But there comes a time when we're going to have to look at it again.

My basic fiscal policy will be a combination of things. For one thing, I think we're going to have to move toward a graduated income tax, one that is fair and with a minimum of deductions so that loopholes aren't a part of



it. And that can be done. But even if we passed a graduated income tax tomorrow, it would be five years before it could come into effect.

While that's happening, I think we need to look at lifting the limit on wage taxes, which can be taxed by a locality, which is now a maximum of one per cent, so that local governments can get at the income that's there for schools and local services.

I think we need to look at eliminating the occupational tax, which is grossly unfair. I think we also need to look at the corporate tax structure, because we have to encourage industry to stay in the state if we're really going to have much growth in employment. It's all part of a package.

Collegian: If you are elected, what will your priorities be when you get to Harrisburg?

Wise: First, I think you have to realize that a freshman legislator has some immediate priorities like getting to know the ropes. I think I have some advantages there because I know the people, I know the system, I know how it works. My first priority would be to be sure that I got on both the Education and Agriculture Committees because I think those are the two committees of the greatest concern in this district.

I think my second priority would be to develop liaisons with official and unofficial governmental bodies back here, like the Centre Region Council of Governments and the municipal council and township governments and USG and all the others.

The third would be to develop a good means of reporting back to the district through a weekly news column and weekly on the radio on what's happening in Harrisburg. I think the biggest concern the people have is that they don't really distrust their legislators, they just don't know what they're doing. I think the first objective is to establish a good base, then you go into specific legislation.

Collegian: What is your stand on lowering the drinking age and would you be willing to introduce a bill to that effect?

Wise: I have consistently supported the lowering of the drinking age. I prefer 19 because I think there is a cut-off point when people get out of high school. I've also said I would look into sponsoring a bill, but it's not good for a freshman (legislator) to sponsor legislation. I have no objection to sponsoring a bill, but you need good sponsorship to get a bill through. That means bi-partisan House and Senate leadership. That's the kind of thing that would have to be pushed.

Collegian: Do you think that possession of marijuana should be reduced to a summary offense as it has been in other states?

Wise: I believe that marijuana should be decriminalized. I think a summary offense or a misdemeanor is the way to

go. I probably feel more strongly about that, as far as the enforcement goes, than many others because I think it is unfair. I think it should not be as it is now and I would work very hard to see that it is changed.

Collegian: With your background in education, what specific things would you do for the University and students?

Wise: You have to realize that that's going to be a long haul. One person can't do it, but one person can take the lead. I think the person who represents the 77th District has to be the prime advocate of this University. It's the number one industry in the district. It touches the lives of not just 30,000 students, but of 7,000 employees and many others in related fields.

I think it means developing a constant advocacy of the University so that when appropriation time comes around there isn't a "Well, you hear Penn State just when they want money" kind of thing. I think that means working with the legislators who represent the Commonwealth Campuses, to develop an ongoing program of advocacy.

The problem of tuition is going to be with us for a long time, because of the attitude of the people across the country that says students

should pay. We've been fighting this for a long time and we will continue to fight it. I think it puts me in a better position to help because I do serve on the Board of Trustees and I do know what our long-range plans are and I know how we develop the budget, and I think I can be the advocate that's necessary.

Collegian: What makes you feel you are more qualified to represent the 77th Legislative District than your opponent?

Wise: There are several things: I think I have extended experience in the political field. I've been a lobbyist, I've worked both in Harrisburg and Washington, I've testified before com-

mittees, I've helped to draft legislation. I've got a good working relationship with both sides of the aisle, not only with the AFL-CIO and labor, but with management.

I know the people, I've worked with them, I've conferred with them regularly. I think I'm well-known in the community. I'm a native. I think people have respected my ability to speak out, although they haven't always agreed with me. I think the fact that I have served as an educational administrator and in educational management, in educational business as well as being a teacher, all combine to give me some rather unique qualifications for the job.

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