

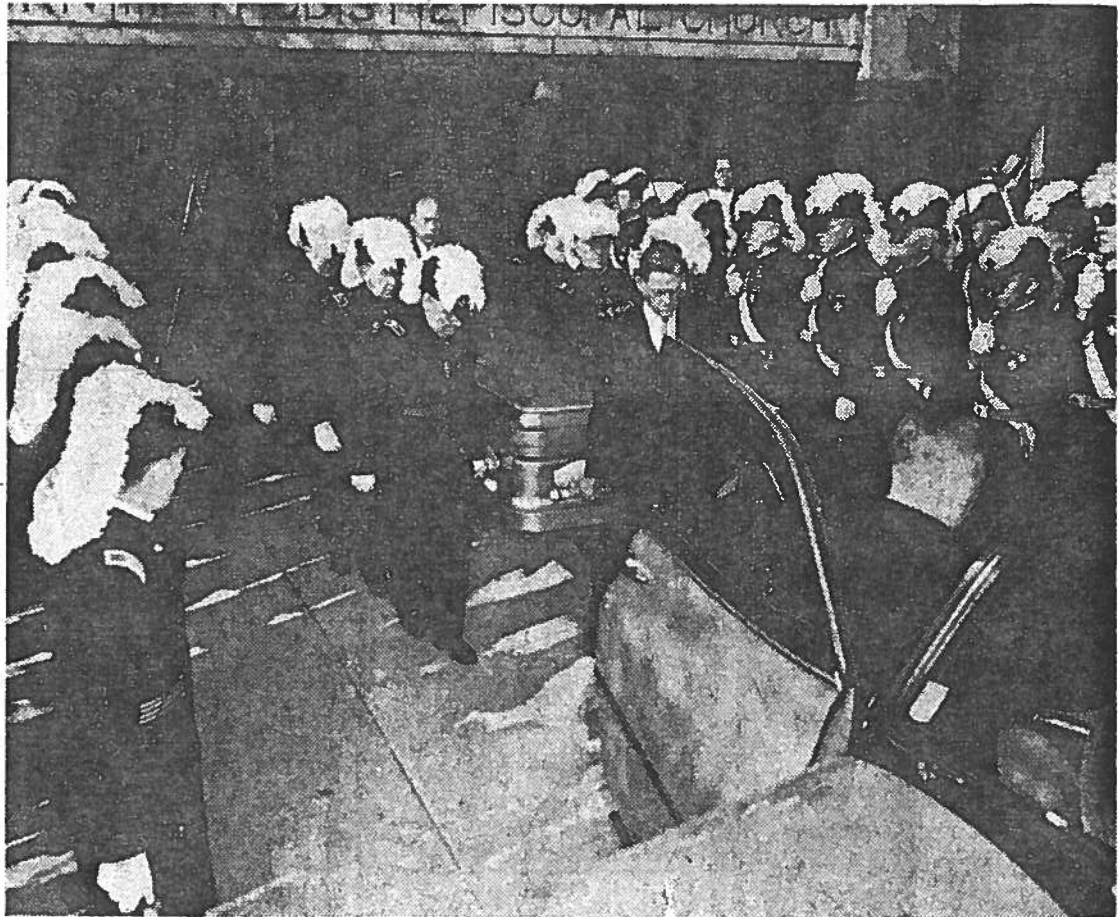
SOUTHTOWN, CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1950

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UNICE

At Funeral Services for David I. Swanson



—Economist Photo

HUNDREDS PAY HIM TRIBUTE IN THOBURN METHODIST CHURCH.

While some of his friends of the Englewood Commandery of the Masonic order stood at attention, the casket of David I. Swanson was carried from the Thoburn Methodist church, 1708 W. 64th st., Saturday afternoon. Hundreds of Mr. Swanson's friends attended the rites and then drove to Oakhill cemetery where he was buried. The long-time Southtown legislator died of a heart attack in the headquarters of the 18th ward Republican organization on election night a week-ago yesterday. During the day voters had chosen him again as one of two men to represent the Republican party in the November election for state representative at Springfield.

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The Economist

Community Newspapers of Chicago

CHICAGO, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1950

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16 Pages
Today

HA SHOWDOWN

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DAVID I. SWANSON

ion Campaign Against CHA

His Surprise Order Awaits A Challenge

**Public Housers to Demand
Reconsideration; Other
Aldermen Pleased About
the Whole Thing.**

With the public housers' screaming protests against a legislative tactic which they themselves have effectively used on past occasion, it is expected the several aldermen friendly to the Chicago Housing Authority will demand at the May 3 meeting of the City council that an order introduced last Thursday by Ald. John Egan (13th) be reconsidered.

The Egan order, passed as a part of the so-called omnibus bill at the conclusion of the council

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meeting Thursday, consists of 49 words which are of high importance in the public housing controversy that has grown to monumental proportions throughout the city. It reads as follows:

"Be it ordered by the City council of the city of Chicago that the council establish a policy in the future of approving for public housing sites only those locations now in areas designated as slum areas or on land immediately adjacent to areas now designat a slum areas."

The reason this order has brought howls of protest from the handful of pro-public-housing aldermen in the council and from the pressure organizations which propagandize for more public housing is that it stands as an effective blockade to the CHA's insistence upon building tax-free-but-tax-supported public housing projects on vacant land in outlying communities of the city.

Would Benefit Slums.

The Egan order would confine the activities of the CHA to the rebuilding of the city's slum areas, a function which the CHA is shunning. Many aldermen contend that when the housing and slum clearance bond issues were approved by the voters in 1947 the public belief was that the money would be used to rebuild slum areas with public housing, rather than to build public housing on vacant land in various outlying communities.

The main City council supporters of public housing—Ald. Robert Merriam (5th), Ald. Benjamin M. Becker (40th) and Ald. Archibald J. Carey (3rd)—were bitter in their assaults upon Alderman Egan's introduction of his order as part of the omnibus bill. However, during the Spring of last year Merriam himself introduced into an omnibus bill a highly-controversial resolution, which many aldermen unwittingly voted for, placing the City council in full support of the national housing act of 1949.

Merriam's Letter.

When a flurry of excitement arose after the aldermen discovered what they had done as a result of Merriam's action, Merriam, in a lengthy letter to the Southtown Economist, defended his use of the omnibus bill for the introduction of important business of city-wide concern, cited precedents in defense of his tactic and denied there was anything "slick" about the maneuver. At the next council meeting Merriam was successful in beating off efforts to have his resolution reconsidered.

Ordinarily, the omnibus bill is used as a time-saving device by the City council in voting upon matters of concern only to various

Judiciary Chairman

As proof of his skill Mr. Swanson headed the powerful judiciary committee of the assembly for seven of his 12 terms. At other times he also was chairman of the house Republican caucus and the legislative election contest committee and a member of committees on house policy, banks and building and loan associations, industry and labor relations, military affairs and other committees.

Agencies devoted to better government ~~poorly~~ realized his worth in the assembly. In a report issued recently by the Better Government association he was called one of the state assembly's most able members, "independent, active and forceful."

He Liked to Fish.

Despite the time devoted to his duties in Springfield Mr. Swanson found opportunities to build an excellent reputation as a lawyer in Southtown. Although he had experience in all types of law, his practice was centered particularly around legal aspects of real estate transactions.

He also found time for hobbies. He collected stamps of the United States, read widely in Civil war history and was an enthusiastic fisherman.

"He also liked to travel a great deal," his step-son, Harry S. Carlson, said. "While other political figures were going to Hot Springs or Florida, dad traveled down the Mississippi river on a steamboat five times to observe the South at first hand."

Pleasant Disposition.

Throughout his life Mr. Swanson was noted for his friendliness and his pleasant disposition.

"In all the years I knew him," Charles Wilson said, "there was never any conflict or major misunderstanding between us. He was that same agreeable way with everyone. His friendliness impressed all."

Similar testimony as to qualities of the man came yesterday from Fritz Peterson, 81 years old, 10003 May st., who met Mr. Swanson when he was a youngster going to grammar school on the South side. Mr. Peterson served as a precinct captain in the 17th ward from 1906 to 1948 and came to know Mr. Swanson well.

"He was a very good friend," Mr. Peterson said, "always cooperative. I consider him one of the finest men I have ever met in my life."

City Council Resolution.

Present political leaders of Southtown and the entire city expressed their feelings towards Mr. Swanson in a resolution adopted by the City council at its meeting Thursday. Introduced by Ald.

BURY STATE REP.

Hundreds of Friends Pay Him Tribute

Masonic Funeral Is Held for Legislator Who Died on Night of Victory in GOP Primary.

David I. Swanson, long-time state representative of the 11th senatorial district, was buried yesterday afternoon in Oakhill cemetery after funeral services in Thoburn Methodist church, 1708 W. 64th st. Mr. Swanson died suddenly last Tuesday at 11 p.m. of a heart attack in the headquarters of the 18th ward Republican party in the Englewood Masonic temple, 6400 Green st.

Throughout the remainder of the week hundreds of his friends from Southtown and the entire city told of the distinction of Mr. Swanson.

"They'll miss him in Springfield," said Charles Wilson, 10431 Bell ave., a life-long friend. "He was a tremendously capable legislator and did a great job for his constituents in the 11th district."

Masonic Services.

Present at the Masonic funeral services yesterday in Thoburn church were men representing both major political parties as well as hundreds of neighbors and friends, some of whom Mr. Swanson had known since he was a young man fresh out of John Marshall Law School.

Many who attended the services in the church and later rode to the cemetery were present Tuesday night when Mr. Swanson suddenly died. He was stricken while being congratulated upon his victory in the Republican primaries. By a heavy majority, voters that day had again chosen him to be one of two Republican candidates to run for state representative in the election next November.

Born in Englewood.

Mr. Swanson was born and reared near 57th st. and Shields ave., the son of Swedish immigrants. His father was a carpenter. His parents weren't rich by any means, his old friends recalled, and Dave worked around the neighborhood to help out. After he graduated from grammar school he went to work with Swift's as an assistant buyer. Then, at nights, he went to John Marshall Law school.

Despite his heavy schedule, young Swanson became a member of the Delta Theta Phi law fraternity and maintained a high scholastic average at the law school.

"Even then he had the reputation of being a hard worker and a sensible man," said Kenneth Rice, retired executive of the Chi-
(Continued on Page 2)

Masonic Rites Are Held for Rep. Swanson

Men of Both Political Parties Pay Tribute to Legislator.

(Continued from Page 1)

Chicago Title and Trust company who was in Mr. Swanson's class. "Every grade he made was the result of hard work."

Admitted to Bar in '13.

During his days at John Marshall young Swanson became close friends with Rice, Wilson and J. A. "Jerry" Kennelly, brother of Mayor Kennelly. Frequently the four students met for dinner before going to their night school classes together.

Mr. Swanson graduated from John Marshall in 1912 and was admitted to the bar the next year. He then became associated with the Lumberman's Mutual Casualty company for a time, following which he set up a general law practice of his own. Meanwhile, he was also breaking into the political picture in what is now the 18th ward.

After he had worked his way up the first few rungs of the political ladder, Charles S. Denneen, prominent political figure of Englewood and Illinois, took the young man under his guidance. In 1918 Swanson was nominated for the state legislature on the Republican ticket, but lost by a few votes.

Elected First in 1922.

Four years later, after a brief army career, he ran again for the legislature—this time with success. With the exception of one term, from 1946 to 1948, he remained a member of the legislature until his death. Because of his recognized legislative skill he remained in Springfield as attorney for the speaker of the house during the one term he wasn't a member of the assembly.

"Dave knew how to get things done in the legislature," Rice said. "He worked to weed out bad proposals and got behind good ideas and pushed to make them into laws."

Thomas J. Corcoran (18th) and signed by Aldermen Egan (13th), Murphy (17th), Duffy (19th), Sheridan (16th) and Vyzral (15th), the resolution read as follows:

Resolution.

"Whereas: This city council has learned with regret and sorrow of the untimely death of the Honorable David I. Swanson, for many years a state representative of the 11th Senatorial district, and whereas, during his lifetime Mr. Swanson endeared himself to many of the citizens of the city of Chicago by his kindly and generous disposition, his sincere charity and his devotion to the cause of justice and right, and whereas his was a sympathetic and magnanimous nature revered, respected and admired by all who were privileged to know him intimately and to call him friend—

Now, therefore, be it resolved that in recognition of his worth as a man and the service rendered by him in civic life, this City council do, by rising vote, recognize in solemn tribute the esteem of the citizens of Chicago of Mr. Swanson's ability;

Copy to Family.

"And be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the records of the city of Chicago and that a copy thereof, suitably engrossed, be presented to the be-

reaved family as a testimonial of our heartfelt sympathy."

Honorary Pallbearers.

Thirty of Mr. Swanson's closest friends were honorary pallbearers at the funeral services yesterday. They were Clarence N. Bergstrom, Raymond S. Blunt Sr., Fred E. Busbey, Harry A. Carlson, J. Harry Clancy, Rep. A. L. Cronin, William A. Cunnea, Anthony Egan, Theodore F. Ehler, Judge George M. Fisher, Rep. Michael E. Hannigan, Joseph B. Keenan, Fred Kelley, Sen. Arthur E. Larson, Walter McAvoy, William H. McDonnell, Roy O. Meadors, William J. Morgensen, Walter W. Morris, Rep. Paul Powell, Frank C. Rathje, Dr. William H. Reid, Clarence O. Rosain, Rep. Michael A. Ruddy, Homer G. Sailor, Judge Elmer J. Schnackenberg, John L. Showel, Walter Thieme, Fred R. Thompson and John E. W. Timm.

A 23-man delegation from the Chicago Bar association also attended the services.

Mr. Swanson is survived by his widow, Margaret, and two stepsons, Harry S. Carlson and Wilbur Carlson.

Meanwhile, Republican spokesmen said no decision had been reached as yet regarding a successor for Mr. Swanson's place on the November ballot.

If you don't want them show them away!

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1950

AS WE SEE IT---

David Swanson

THE tragic death of Representative David I. Swanson came as a shock to his many friends, celebrating a rebirth of the Republican ideals that Dave Swanson exemplified.

He died as the returns from his district showed the voters were prepared to send him back to Springfield to begin his twenty-fifth year in the lower house. Few of his contemporaries had served longer, none more ably. In commending him to the voters of the 11th senatorial district, The Daily News on March 15 said of him:

"He has fought machine politics—both in the Democratic party and in his own party, the Republican. He has worked diligently for efficiency in government.

"Throughout his long career Swanson has been a real leader in the House."

Representative Swanson had hoped to retire at the end of the last session of the legislature. He was impelled to run again by his desire to campaign for the Gateway Amendment to the constitution and to have a part in drawing the amendments that will be submitted to the people for their approval. This achievement was denied him.

In his death the people of Cook County have lost an outstanding legislator. We have all the people of Illinois.



DAVID I. SWANSON.
Mr. Swanson, top vote-getter of the four candidates for Republican nomination as 11th district representative, fell dead of a heart attack at 11 o'clock last night. A successor to him in the candidacy will be named by the G.O.P. state senatorial committee.

11th District Mourns Death Of Swanson

State Representative Dies
of Heart Attack in 18th
Ward Headquarters.

Southtown, the section he had served 24 years as a state legislator, today mourned the death of David I. Swanson, 61 years old, 7842 Marshfield ave., who suddenly collapsed and died of a heart attack at 11 o'clock last night in the Englewood Masonic temple, 64th and Green sts., where he had gone earlier in the evening to help tally election returns. Seventy-five persons were present at the time Mr. Swanson was stricken. As a Republican member of the state house of representatives, he had been a candidate for renomination in yesterday's primary.

Knew He Was a Winner.

His death came as a shocking climax to an evening of happiness for him, occasioned by his victory in the Republican primary balloting. During the day the Republican voters had chosen him by a wide margin to be one of the two Republican candidates to run for state representative in the election next November.

During the evening, as Mr. Swanson and his friends received returns, the generous measure of victory became obvious. Only a moment before he fell dead as he was about to leave for a visit to other wards he had been shaking hands with some of his friends and thanking them for their support of his candidacy for renomination.

He Was Confident.

After the polls close at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon friends and well-wishers flocked to the Masonic temple, headquarters of the 18th ward regular Republican organization, to be on hand for the

(Continued on Page 8)

Unofficial Pro

11th District Mourns Death Of Swanson

State Representative Dies of Heart Attack in 18th Ward Headquarters.

(Continued from Page 1)

returns. Throughout the evening Mr. Swanson remained smilingly confident, but not gloating. During his long career in Republican politics he had become accustomed to victory at the polls.

Lighted a Cigar.

He told everyone he was gratified at his success, but deeply aware of the responsibilities which the voters' confidence in him demanded," one friend said later.

At 11 p.m. Mr. Swanson lighted a cigar and put on his overcoat.

"I had been talking to him a few minutes before," said Mrs. William J. Morgensen, 7803 Marshfield ave., wife of the 18th ward Republican committeeman. "He said he had decided to leave and go to the headquarters of the 16th and 17th wards to see how things were going there."

After talking for a moment to Mrs. Morgensen, Swanson turned to J. Harry Clancy, 7642 Peoria st., who was standing nearby.

Stiffens, Then Falls.

"Dave said he was leaving and we shook hands," Clancy said. "Then suddenly, without warning, he stiffened.

"He slumped back against a table."

Mr. Swanson was caught by Raymond Blunt, 8340 Elizabeth st., who was standing behind him.

"I caught him in my arms and lowered him to the floor," Blunt said. "I covered him with a coat and yelled for somebody to call a doctor or firemen."

When Mr. Swanson started to fall, Mrs. Anne Landstrom, 7002 Morgan st., was going across the room towards him.

"I had just remarked to a friend that I must go and congratulate Dave," Mrs. Landstrom said. "Suddenly it seemed like all the people in the room started towards him at the same time. Then I heard someone say Dave

Rescue Squad Responds.

Someone ran from the room and called Fire Rescue squad No. 9 which rushed to the temple. Police squads from the Englewood station arrived at about the same time.

The firemen hurried inside and, using a pulmotor, tried desperately to revive Mr. Swanson. After 20 minutes they gave up and stood aside as Dr. Robert C. Busch pronounced him dead.

A man in the gathering quietly asked all the men present to remove their hats. While all stood with heads bowed, tears welling into the eyes of even the men, the man softly recited the Lord's Prayer.

Friends Are Stunned.

Still stunned by the tragedy, most of the people filed out of the room. Mrs. Morgensen telephoned Mr. Swanson's widow, Margaret, and his two step-sons, Harry S. Carlson, 39 years old, 7842 Marshfield ave., and Wilbur Carlson, 37, 5025 Elm Circle, Oak Lawn.

Aware only that Mr. Swanson had become "ill" and had suffered a "dizzy spell," Mrs. Swanson and the elder step-son arrived at the temple. There Mrs. Morgensen and others met them at the door and, as gently as possible, broke the news. The son went to the room where Mr. Swanson lay. Mrs. Swanson remained with friends in the foyer of the temple.

Successor to Be Chosen.

The widow and son left a short time later after arranging for the body to be taken to the Edgar Funeral chapel at 1107 W. 79th st.

Meanwhile, upstairs in the temple, in the room where Mr. Swanson had fallen, a few friends remained.

"You can say this," said Clarence Bergstrom, 6331 Ashland ave., a life-long friend. "Dave was a Christian gentleman and a citizen of the highest type. In his years at Springfield he had no peer as a legislator and public servant."

Before this week is out—possibly even late today—the process of selecting a candidate to take Mr. Swanson's place on the Republican ballot will begin. The Republican ward committeemen of the 11th district will be asked by the County Central committee of the party to suggest successors to his place on the ballot. These proposals will be turned over to

Highly Regarded.

During his long career in politics of the 11th district in Springfield, Mr. Swanson had served in various terms as chairman of the various important judiciary committees one time or another he also been a member of virtually every other important committee there.

As proof of his reputation as an exponent of good government he had recently received the endorsement of the Better Government association for his candidacy in yesterday's primary.

Mr. Swanson was born and reared in Southtown. After graduation from John Marshall school he went into private practice. At the time of his death

he was attorney for the Clarence Rosain real estate firm, 5933 Hastings st. He also maintained a law office in the Loop.

Swanson was a member of the Normal lodge, A.F. and A.M.,

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