

say, "in this first century of the history of Gustavus Adolphus College to find another person who invested so much of himself over so long a time in the welfare of that institution. He was a child when the Old Main was dedicated and he had attended every dedication since. Together with O. J. Johnson and Mr. C. E. Sjostrand, he carried the vast burden of college administration for many years.

"To you who stood closest to him in life and thus felt the warmest rays of his glowing heart we extend our thanks for having shared him with us, and we assure you of our fellowship in your far deeper loss. Sometimes to suffer loss is the price that must be paid for having been greatly blessed. And beyond the loss is greater gain as you look forward to reunion in the Father's house.

"The world has never had men like Henry Benson to spare. We wonder whether, as they drop away, they are being replaced in our time. We pray that they may be, for we shall sorely miss them. God bless the memory of a great and good man."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from St. Louis, Mr. Vukelich, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:

I quote from the editorial page of the Mesabi Daily News for Tuesday, March fifteenth, 1960—one year ago:

"Michael Boylan, 79, a former mayor of Virginia, also a former member of the city council and for at least two terms a state senator from this district, died Sunday in the infirmary, remembered only as a name by the present electorate. It was not always thus, for in his heyday no public figure was more popular, more influential, than the late 'Mike' Boylan. He was a colorful and outspoken individual and was at his best when from the platform defending a certain course, or assailing a contrary premise."

End of quotation, although the editorial of memorial continued—telling the story of Senator Boylan's life.

I selected this quotation from the newspaper editorial commemorating Mike Boylan because it tells more, by tone and inference than by words alone. It tells the story of the spirited, newly-opened Iron Range of Northern Minnesota where men came, possessed of a spirit which is strangely absent today, the spirit of adventure and enterprise. It tells the story of a man possessed of natural qualities of leadership which inspired the confidence of others, who chose to elect him and to follow him. And these editorial words tell the story of the time of personal government, when words uttered from the public platform set the course of local and state history. Yes, there is a lesson to be learned from the background of Michael Boylan.

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Senator Boylan was born August eighteenth, 1880, in Boscobel, Wisconsin. He attended school in Kalamazoo, Michigan and lived for a short time in Duluth before moving to the new city of Virginia. He came to Virginia to practice his trade and soon was the proprietor of a flourishing plumbing and heating contracting company. Early records tell us that many of the plumbing contracts for public buildings in the Virginia area were under Mr. Boylan's supervision.

But in the hustling, burgeoning Iron Range of this century's first decade, politics were particularly colorful and appealing. And Mike Boylan answered the call of the art of politics and the science of government.

He took office on January second, 1908, as alderman for Virginia's first ward and was re-elected for a second two-year term, ultimately serving until 1914 when he became mayor of Virginia. In 1916 he was re-elected, and served two terms altogether, as mayor, until April, 1918.

He was elected to the Minnesota State Senate from the Sixty-First District in 1920 and served two terms in this Chamber, until 1928. Earlier, he had helped to found the League of Minnesota Municipalities which has grown in size and importance until today it is a most valuable and highly-regarded adjunct of local and state government.

After 1928, Mr. Boylan lived in Saint Paul and then later returned to Virginia, which he had served as alderman, mayor, and state senator. There, he died on March thirteenth, 1960 at the age of 79.

Mike Boylan had the spirit of adventure; he moved to an area of new opportunity. Quite evidently he was a born leader—and he had the courage and will, the energy and perserverance, to use that gift in politics and government. And he must indeed have been a powerful and moving orator because we find another newspaper reference, and I quote:

“. . . he displayed a dynamic personality, was colorful in his public actions, and a stout debater and speaker.”

The qualities of adventure, of the use of leadership abilities, and of the power of the spoken word are all lessons for our time. These were qualities employed to their utmost by our predecessors in this Chamber; these are qualities which speak advice to us today, asking us and urging us to make maximum use of our gifts, whether they are slight or great.

Senator Boylan leaves another lesson for us, too: the lesson of learning the arts of public service step by step. Because he was a good alderman, he was a better mayor, and because he was a good mayor, he became a State Senator. This, too, is a lesson for today: that those who wish to serve should be willing to gain experience as they grow and develop from one office to another.

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