

Wright, D.

DONALD O. WRIGHT

30th District

Hennepin County

Class 1935

Majority Group

Congressional District 5

Lanky, sharp-featured Sen. Donald O. Wright's 20 plus years in the senate have seen him heading committees that are naturals to draw controversy. He's been chairman of the committees on liquor control, highways, civil administration, public welfare and taxes, with the last one occupying his attention in the past few sessions.

He went to the legislature in 1927 as a house member, shifted to the senate in 1935 and has stayed there since. He is a keen parliamentarian with a skill that he combines with an able oratorical flair.

1954

The Minneapolis lawyer was born in the district he represents and is a graduate of the Northwestern College of Law. He is an active Republican and a member of the state party's delegation to the GOP national convention in 1940.

He was president pro tempore of the senate in the 1953 session, a position that found him elevated to office of lieutenant governor in 1954 upon the resignation of Ancher Nelsen. Wright is an inveterate hunter and fisherman and at his home at 1112 Washburn Avenue S. is a workshop do-it-yourself addict.

He and his wife, Virna, are the parents of two grown sons.

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Sen. Donald O. Wright took the oath of office as lieutenant governor last September, but returns to the senate in January to end a short break in a legislative career that goes back to 1927.

1955

Wright succeeded to the lieutenant governorship, vacant for 18 months, by virtue of his position as president pro tempore of the senate. But he did it only when he found himself automatically re-elected through lack of any opposition to his hold on the 30th district senate seat. He was the district's house member from 1927 to 1933, made the jump to the senate in 1935. A practicing attorney his principal assignment in recent senate sessions has been as chairman of the tax committee.

Wright is ranked as one of the ablest debaters in the senate and his long legislative service has made him a master of the parliamentary rules and procedures. He is a workshop putterer at his home at 1112 Washburn Avenue So. and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Wright is a graduate of Northwestern College of Law, Minneapolis and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

senate
Chair, Taxes + Tax Laws, 1951-1969