

Welch

THOMAS P. WELCH      27th District      Wright County  
Class 1939      Majority Group      Congressional District 6

Sen. Thomas P. Welch is the senate's new president pro tempore, highest honor that his colleagues can vote him. Nominated by the 48 conservatives in the 67 man senate, Welch will preside in the absence of the lieutenant governor and succeed to that office should it become vacant.

1957?

The big square-jawed Wright county senator has been a recognized senate leader for at least the past dozen years. In 1955 Welch shared floor leadership chores to ease the load of ailing Sen. Archie Miller, majority leader, at the session's close.

Welch went to the senate in 1939 after 14 years as Wright county attorney, a post in which he distinguished himself in prosecuting some county banking scandals that drew statewide headlines. He soon showed that his quiet-voiced demeanor cloaked a fierce debating mood when he was aroused.

Iowa-born 59 years ago Welch grew up in Washington county, attended St. Thomas college and received his law degree from the St. Paul College of Law. He practiced at Benson briefly, moved to Monticello in 1924, a year later was elected county attorney and since then has made his home at Buffalo. Welch is the veteran chairman of the legislative iron ore taxation committee, the legislative research committee, serves on the Council of State Governments commission and is chairman of the Minnesota delegation on the Great Lakes Compact commission.

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Big, able Sen. Thomas P. Welch is a man of contrasts. Normally quiet spoken, he can rise to fighting heights in senate debate. His ordinarily grave demeanor frequently collapses under his sense of humor.

Welch served his first term in 1939 after 14 years as Wright county attorney. Despite seniority, Welch has chosen for the past two legislative sessions to head one of the committee hotspots--the committee on labor.

1955?

Born in Iowa 57 years ago, Welch was raised in Washington county, went to St. Thomas college in St. Paul and then to the St. Paul College of Law. He moved to Benson to work in a law office and incidentally, to marry his wife, Lillian.

In 1926 he made headlines as the young prosecutor in cases involving Wright county banking scandals. Welch claims conservation his hobby and since his first term, he has served on that senate committee. His two children are grown--Mary living at St. Cloud with her Korean war veteran husband as he finishes his education and Suzanne, a sophomore at St. Benedict college.

Chair, Senate Judiciary, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961