

Arthur T. Gibbons, state legislator for 20 years

Arthur T. Gibbons, 83, a state legislator for 20 years and a Ramsey County commissioner for eight years, died of lung cancer Saturday at his St. Paul home.

Gibbons was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1935 to 1955 and caucused with the Conservatives. He represented the 37th District South, which was then just north of the State Capitol.

According to his campaign literature, he favored old-age pensions,

elimination of homestead liens, unemployment insurance, two-man streetcars (as opposed to one-man cars) and minimum-wage laws. He also proposed parimutuel betting on horse racing in 1948 to finance bonuses for World War II veterans.

Gibbons opposed sales taxes, the purchase of privately owned property for state office use and the taxation of household goods.

After moving out of his district, Gibbons concentrated on selling insur-

ance for some time. He also owned an advertising business, Souvenirs of Minnesota. He returned to politics by successfully running for Ramsey County commissioner, a position he held from 1962 to 1970.

Gibbons helped expand the Ramsey County park system from two parks to about 20, said John Daubney, a former St. Paul mayor and Ramsey County commissioner himself.

"He also was one of the people to get the Legislature to give a portion of

the county road and bridge funds to St. Paul," Daubney said. "The funds were raised on a countywide basis, but initially they all went to the suburban areas."

Gibbons is survived by his wife, Olive of St. Paul; a daughter, Marion Lassonde of Bloomington; and a son, Richard J. of St. Paul.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. today at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in St. Paul with interment at Calvary Cemetery.