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H. 7-78
Tribune

Ex-Rep. John Hartle, Owatonna, dies at 87

Tribune News Services

Owatonna, Minn.

John Hartle, who served 34 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives, died Thursday at age 87.

Hartle, a farmer, played a major role in the Legislature until he decided not to seek reelection in 1968. He was speaker of the House in the 1949, 1951 and 1953 sessions and also served as minority leader, chairman of the tax committee and state Republican chairman.

He was a key figure in the 1967 enactment of the sales tax and said that was his most satisfying legislative achievement.

Funeral services will be today in Owatonna.