

# Holmquist Not In Rosenmeier Circle

1967

New senate majority leader Stanley W. Holmquist has been called a "maverick", and he is not considered a member of the "Rosenmeier inner circle", that clique of built-in votes which gave state Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier his base of power in the past.

Holmquist, who was elected senate majority leader by his conservative colleagues last week, reportedly had support from metropolitan area senators, although Rochester Sen. Harold Krieger also had some backing.

Holmquist is a 57-year old lumber merchant from Grove City in Meeker County, which is a third-ring county out from the metropolitan area just beyond Wright County.

Holmquist is considered an able, articulate hard-working senator by both conservatives and the DFL minority.

## MARRIED

He is not quite a brother-in-law of former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen as has been stated -- they married sisters.

He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and also holds an M.A. from there in educational administration. He was a superintendent of schools at Grove City seven years before going into the lumber business.

He served four terms in the house before being elected

## Capitol Close-up by Betty Wilson

to the senate where he has served since 1954. His father before him represented Kittson County in the house in 1919, 1921 and 1925.

He was senate author of such major legislation as the 1961 bill to collect state income taxes by withholding, and here he crossed with the powerful senate tax committee chairman Donald Wright, and lined up with DFLers and more liberal senate conservatives.

If he has steered clear of personal advocacy of a sales tax, he has indicated he thinks Minnesota will eventually have one. He voted in tax committee on one occasion for a Farm Bureau sales tax that contained two provisions he says such legislation should contain -- personal property tax replacement and a \$10-a-person income tax credit to reduce regressivity.

He opposed Gov. Andersen's excise tax program in 1961.

He has carried important education bills in the past, and as chairman of an interim education subcommittee vowed this year, "If I'm back in the Minnesota Legislature next year, I'm certainly going to recommend we have a permanent committee study state aid distribution to arrive at a more equitable basis."

He also said at a meeting of that subcommittee, "Property can no longer assume more burden for schools. If we need more money for education, the only other source of revenue I think would be on the sale of merchandise."

Someone in the audience quipped at this, "He just won't say 'sales tax'."

While education people including teachers may be happy with Holmquist, labor may not be optimistic about facing him in the legislature.

If Holmquist looks like a liberal in education, he is considered a tough and "pro-business" conservative on unemployment and workmen's compensation measures where he played a leading role in past sessions.

These are important items on labor's 1967 legislative program.

Those who want to scrap some of the senate's long standing traditions are encouraged by Holmquist's election.

## JUST TOO MUCH

"I'll go along with keeping my coat on and not eating or drinking at my desk. But some of these other traditions such as this seniority business and not recognizing talents of junior members is just too much," says one new senator.

Holmquist has in the past been critical of such senate hierarchy policies as giving the small group of senators on the Rules Committee almost unlimited powers.

He has already indicated he may break with one policy of the Rosenmeier-Zwack regime and consider setting up a metropolitan and urban affairs committee.

Republican party leaders who have long been out in the cold when it comes to the senate independent conservatives should be happy with Holmquist, an active Republican and one-time Sixth District GOP chairman.