

1947

# In Memoriam

Senators

William B. Richardson

J. V. Weber

William L. Roepke

Alfred J. Thwing

George Nordlin

Joseph H. Hackney

and

Louis C. Berg

**State of Minnesota**

**Senate Chamber**

**Friday, March 28th, 1947**

**2:00 O'Clock P. M.**

# MEMORIAL SERVICES AUTHORIZED

FOR

SENATORS

WILLIAM B. RICHARDSON, J. V. WEBER

AND

FORMER SENATORS

WILLIAM L. ROEPKE, ALFRED J. THWING, GEORGE NORDLIN

JOSEPH H. HACKNEY AND LOUIS E. BERG

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1947.

Mr. Orr introduced—

Senate Resolution No. 2:

*Whereas*, The Almighty God has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to remove from this body by death since the last session the Honorable William B. Richardson and J. V. Weber; and

*Whereas*, Several others who were former members of the Minnesota State Senate have also passed to the great Beyond since our last memorial service; and

*Whereas*, The high character and public service of these men merit an expression of respect and veneration for their memory;

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the President of the Senate be and he is hereby directed to appoint a committee of five members of the Senate who shall arrange for and report such resolutions and memorial exercises as in the judgment of the committee will fittingly express the respect and sentiment which the members of the Senate feel for the memory of their late fellow members.

Mr. Orr moved that the foregoing Resolution be adopted.

Which motion prevailed.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, the President appointed the following members as a Committee on Resolutions and Memorial Exercises:

Messrs. Miller, Goodhue, Burdick, Pedersen, and Orr.

MARCH 21, 1947.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Pursuant to notice given on Wednesday, March 19th, Mr. Miller moved that the memorial service for the late Senators William B. Richardson and J. V. Weber and former Senators Joseph M. Hackney, Alfred J. Thwing, Louis Berg, George Nordlin, and William Roepke, be made a Special Order of Business for Friday, March 28th, at 2:30 o'clock P. M.

Which motion prevailed.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1947.

SPECIAL ORDER.

TWO-THIRTY O'CLOCK P. M.

The President announced the order of business to be the memorial services set pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 2, adopted January 21, 1947, in honor of the late Senators William B. Richardson and J. V. Weber and former Senators William L. Roepke, Alfred L. Thwing, George Nordlin, Joseph M. Hackney, and Louis E. Berg.

Prayer was offered by the chaplain.

CALL OF THE SENATE.

Mr. Miller moved a call of the Senate.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names:

Almen	Dennison	Julkowski	Novak	Sullivan
Anderson, E. P.	Dernek	Larson, N. J.	O'Brien	Swenson
Anderson, M. H.	Dietz	Lauerman	Orr	Wagener
Baughman	Dougherty	Lightner	Pedersen	Wahlstrand
Bridgeman	Duemke	Masek	Peterson, E.	Wefald
Burdick	George	Mayhood	Peterson, E. L.	Welch
Butler	Goodhue	Miller	Rogers	Welle
Carey	Grottum	Mitchell	Rosenmeier	Wright
Carley	Hagen	Mullin	Simonson	Wuertz
Cole	Harrison	Myre	Sinclair	Zwach
Dahlquist	Johanson	Nelsen	Sletvold	
Davis	Johnson	Neumeier	Spokely	

CALL LIFTED.

Mr. Miller moved to dispense with further proceedings under the Call of the Senate and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to bring in the absent members.

Which motion prevailed.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Hennepin County, Mr. Miller, who offered the following tribute to the deceased members and former members in behalf of the Memorial Committee.

*"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:*

"We have responded to a call of the Senate and are met today to honor by memorial observance former members of this body, two of whom died while members, and five others, who were former members. It is fitting and proper that we should do this. It is the final farewell to William B. Richardson, J. V. Weber, Joseph Hackney, Alfred L. Thwing, Louis Berg, George Nordlin and William L. Roepke, with whom we have been closely associated and who have answered the last roll call.

"It seems but such a short time ago that these men were here with us, that their voices were heard in this chamber, and that they were busy taking part in the same work that we are now doing. Each had his own way of expressing his personality and making his influence felt among his fellowmen. We remember them as each trying in his own way to uphold the welfare of state. We knew the value of their counsel, the high purpose of their endeavors, and are encouraged to profit by the splendid example of service, loyalty, friendship and patriotism left behind.

"As we pause here today to bid them farewell, we might despair of our society and give ourselves to grim pessimism if it were not for such high minded men in public life. That is our best hope.

"God give us more such men. The time demands strong minds, strong hearts, true faith and willing hands.

Men who possess opinions and a will.

Men who have honor and will not lie.

Men who live above the fog in public duty and in private thinking.

God give us more such men.

"We present, therefore, a tribute of tender remembrance and admiration and say to each one of these men: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"

The President recognized the Senator from Olmsted County, Mr. Burdick, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President and Members of the Senate:*

"I feel I should say a few words in respect to the late Senator William B. Richardson.

"William B. Richardson was born in Rochester, Minnesota, on November 10, 1874, and died there on September 19, 1945. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School. He was mayor of the city of Rochester for six years and he served in this honorable body five terms, acting as president pro tempore of the Senate from 1935 to 1937. He also was Lieutenant Governor from August 22, 1936 to January 1, 1937.

"Perhaps I was as close to Bill as any one of you men, even though some of you had the pleasure of working with him for many years. The longer I knew Bill, the better I liked him, and I think this was true of all of his friends. I was working at the hotel where Bill resided when he became ill, and called the doctor and ambulance which took him away, never to return.

"Maybe some of you wonder why I call him 'Bill'. Many times I called him 'Senator' or 'Mister', just to be chided for adding any titles. He wanted to belong to the common people and was friendly to all. One time when I was in his office I noticed a little verse that said: 'How sweet and gracious, even in common speech, is that fine sense which men call courtesy.' I think this was typical of Mr. Richardson. Yes, he walked upon that level of time into that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

The President then recognized the Senator from Pipestone County, Mr. Pedersen, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:*

"It is my sad duty and privilege to present on this floor a tribute to the memory of the late Honorable J. V. Weber of Slayton, my predecessor from the Twelfth District, whose sudden and untimely death at the height of his career removed from this body and from the state one of its leading figures.

"John Vincent Weber was born March 12, 1892, at Currie, Minnesota, to Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Weber. The family moved to Slayton five years later where 'Vin', as he was affectionately known, received his education. A year after graduating from high school he acquired an interest in the Murray County Herald and later became its sole owner. His aptitude for newspaper work was soon recognized in such decisive fashion that he became a well-known figure in newspaper circles in the state. In 1919 he acquired the Slayton Gazette which merger of the two papers enabled him to build one of the outstanding weekly publications in the state, if not in the nation.

"In 1930 he entered the political field and was elected to the Senate, where his native wit, his resourcefulness and his unique blending of good fellowship and absolute dependability soon made him a tower of strength and wisdom.

"The people respected 'Vin'. They looked to him for guidance and counsel. 'Vin' served in this body under an administration with which he was, at times, forced to disagree. He fought strenuously and without malice. The people of his district re-

warded him by returning him to office. Later, he was to see his judgment vindicated and an administration established in which he reposed the utmost confidence and admiration.

"During his four terms in the Senate 'Vin' served his constituency well. Countless were the individual matters which he attended to for the home folks. However, he also had the welfare of the entire state at heart, and his constant concern was for the greatest good of the greatest number.

"He sponsored, during the depression years, a number of relief bills which in the aggregate lifted much of the burden of the harassed farmers of the state. He was alert in his attitude toward all vital legislation, and a formidable adversary when fighting for measures in which he sincerely believed. Those of you who had the privilege of serving with him as Senators, recall the ardor and zeal displayed by him in effecting legislation which his good sense and honesty caused him to adjudge for the good of his district and the state as a whole. Although still comparatively young in years, he was a veteran legislator and, by his experience and profound study, was an authority on Minnesota affairs.

"At his death on October 4, 1946, 'Vin' Weber left behind him a life crowded with incidents. In his outstanding career there were many firsts. He was the youngest editor of a county-seat newspaper in Minnesota. He became in 1937, the youngest President to date of the Minnesota Editorial Association. He enjoyed other distinctions and recognitions also. He was President Pro-tem of this body during the 1945 session. He was twice a delegate to the national conventions of his party. Bold, fearless and aggressive, he combined all the ideals of true statesmanship with the practical realism gained by him through years of service in this body. His death leaves an aching void shared by his family, his friends, his district and his state. The latter is here evidenced by letters received from the Honorable Edward J. Thye, U. S. Senator, and the former Governor Harold E. Stassen, which I would like to read to you as follows:

February 13, 1947.

*"The Hon. Hans C. Pedersen*

*State Senator, 12th District*

*State Capitol*

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

*Dear Mr. Pedersen:*

For one who had the privilege, as I did, to know the late Senator J. V. Weber both as a warm personal friend and as

an able and distinguished leader in public life in Minnesota, it is an honor to join in the tribute which the State Senate is fittingly paying to his memory.

Few men in public life in Minnesota had more personal friends than Vin Weber, whose warmth of spirit, high sense of values, and devoted citizenship made him respected and beloved far beyond the home community of Slayton where he was editor and publisher of the Murray County Herald. I knew and respected him long before we were associated together at the Capitol but my admiration for him grew while I presided over the Senate of which he was long a recognized leader and while I served as Governor. Invariably his good judgment and constructive ability, coupled with his integrity of purpose, made him a valuable counsellor and an outstanding citizen and public official.

Senator Weber's life closed when he was at the height of his career with the promise of still greater achievement ahead of him, but it can be truly said of him that his influence lives on in this great state which he loved, in the profession of journalism enriched by his work, in the State Senate where he served with distinction and honor, and among a host of friends to whom the memory of Vin Weber's friendliness and goodwill will always be an inspiration.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD J. THYE,  
United States Senator."

February 20, 1947.

*"Honorable Hans C. Pedersen  
Minnesota State Senate  
State Capitol  
St. Paul 1, Minnesota*

*My Dear Senator:*

I am informed that you are to present a tribute to Senator J. V. Weber in the memorial service which the Senate is to hold in his honor. I cannot let this occasion pass without adding my voice to the others that will be raised to pay him tribute.

It was not enough for Vin Weber to be a forthright and conscientious practitioner in an honored profession. He continually espoused measures which he deemed to be for the public good and brought to the support of all an enthusiasm and a zeal which lifted his efforts above those of most men. He possessed above all, and I think that this must have been the quality that people liked most in him, a capacity for friendship and an unflinching sense of loyalty men could depend on.



He got the greatest pleasure and would go to the greatest personal effort when he could help smooth the way for some friend who was in trouble.

Many of us, in all walks of life, lost a great friend when Vin Weber died.

Yours very truly,  
HAROLD E. STASSEN"

"It is a sad and dismal task to recite the virtues of one who was so lately with us. It makes his absence more pronounced. Yet, knowing 'Vin' as we did it is safe to assert that most of the things for which he struggled were accomplished in the time allotted him. His life, though considerably shorter than the proverbial three-score and ten, was full and rich. He loved his work, he loved his state and he loved his home. He has left his mark upon all three. By this token alone, he could be adjudged not merely good, but great.

"I can never forget his kindly helpfulness to me when I was a newcomer in the House of Representatives in the 1941 session, and his ready willingness to give advice and help whenever I consulted him. I have no illusions as to my status here. I have taken 'Vin's' seat, but I have not taken his place. I shall long remember the feeling of utter futility and loss which numbed the entire 12th district at notice of his sudden death.

"J. Vincent Weber is survived by his widow, the former Elsie Marie Holman; a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Weldon of Arlington, Virginia; and a son, John David, who is now a student at the University of Minnesota.

"The Senate joins with the family and countless friends in mourning the loss of a beloved colleague, a devoted husband and father, and a warm-hearted friend.

"It is indeed fitting that the members of this body in which he served so faithfully pause with reverence to his memory and that we dedicate to 'Vin' Weber this original thought in verse:

"Not until the press is silenced  
And the printer's work laid by  
Shall the Master show the pattern  
And explain the reason why  
The crude black type was just as needful  
In the printer's skillful hand,  
As the type of graceful splendor  
For the pattern which he planned."

The President then recognized the Senator from Ramsey county, Mr. Orr, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, Honored Guests:*

"During the last two years many Senators whom we have loved and honored have gone to their rest and the reward of just and good men.

"It is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die. If it were, men might as well be vegetables lifting their heads for a little to light and air and sinking again into the dust. But whatever his relationship to the earth which gave him his body, dust to dust was not spoken of the soul. Something there is in him which cannot die, since it is kin to Him who giveth life to all created things.

"When those with whom we have worked and liked, perchance have loved, pass from our mortal ken, when the light of the eyes is darkened and the lips silent and the body cold and lifeless, we, thinking selfishly, are prone to regard death as a great calamity. We know not whither the real man we knew and liked or loved has gone. We sorrow — we feel a sense of loss. But we are thinking of ourselves, not of them. For them there is no more sorrow or crying or pain. Their work here is done, for the Divine Providence removes none until in its sight the life which has been removed has accomplished its mission here and for its own good is translated to another sphere, where also it will perform a use.

"We, from our material senses and perceptions, can know nothing about the change we call death, but from Divine Revelation we can know that our Lord, Who was born as a man, lived and died as a man, had almost immediately after that the form and attributes of manhood in a divine way; that He possessed the power of appearing and disappearing at will; that He could still teach, instruct, and solace those who sorrowed, and promised always to be with us. So we can infer and believe that we, who like Him were born, lived and died as men, will continue to be men in that world to which our Lord preceded us. As here we have performed uses, whether good or ill, so there we shall have uses to perform and find happiness in doing so.

"May our Heavenly Father grant unto us a proper and reverent memory of those distinguished and loved Senators who in the past two years have stepped aboard that boat that sails out where the sky and waters meet. May their memories always be fresh with us and may their example be one we will want to and should follow.

"On this occasion it becomes my special duty to include in the necrology of the Senators to whose memory we pay respect today the name of one who was my predecessor in the Senate, former Senator Joseph Malcome Hackney. Few of you here present remember the late Senator, but the memory of his good works and accomplishments lives on.

"In his biography is found the oft told story of the farm boy of poor means rising to a position of respect and a station of

great success in the years of his manhood. Joseph M. Hackney was one of ten children born of parents who emigrated from Montreal, Canada, and traveled by covered wagon to Watonwan County in southwestern Minnesota. There they lived in a very small house in Antrim township, where our subject was born in 1874.

"Early in life he manifested his eagerness for education in trudging daily to the little country school seven miles away, hiking overland many times with his feet protected only by the rags which his mother wrapped around them. His quest for learning prompted him to borrow a small amount from the bank in his home community which enabled him to enroll for a preparatory course at Hamline University in Saint Paul. After he had finished his daytime studies he traveled on the horse-drawn streetcar from Hamline to the University of Minnesota, where he took night courses in law.

"The tribulations of his childhood on the farm did not blind him to the opportunities that lay in agriculture in the Upper Midwest. He had vision of great prospects in the frontier lands of North Dakota and interested a small group of men in financing an option from the Northern Pacific railroad on a land grant to the extent of a million and a half acres. The transaction was consummated at an opportune time, and shortly thereafter the great influx of land-seekers began. In six years all the holdings of the group had been sold, and the frontier had been converted into flourishing farming country.

"An experience some years later was undoubtedly the inspiration for more activity which resulted in benefit to the agricultural population of our state. One of his three children became ill. Desirous of providing fresh, clean milk for her, Senator Hackney purchased a tract at Lake Josephine and secured a cow. Again he envisioned the possibilities of improvement in dairying and set out to establish a herd of cattle which would produce wholesome, uncontaminated milk for children and to further develop the herd in high butterfat production through selective breeding. His dairy operated at a loss, but he was willing to make this sacrifice in order that the hospitals of the Twin Cities might be supplied with top-grade milk. More than a hundred world records in milk and butterfat production were set at his Arden Farms. Herd sires were shipped from there to all parts of the United States and even to China and South Africa.

"His interest in the improvement of agricultural practices prompted his interest in a means of guiding farmers in new methods. He conceived the idea of having county agricultural agents, and his plan was accepted in this state and copied in many others. His program of farm betterment was carried farther by his efforts for enactment of legislation requiring testing of livestock for tuberculosis infection and establishing of accredited herds. This legislation succeeded only after he had led a vigorous campaign on the floor of this chamber. He was also

one of the prime movers in creating the University Extension Division for teaching agricultural subjects. A testimonial plaque was presented to him by our University in later years, which states in part:

'in appreciation of services rendered the cause of agriculture \* \* \* in aiding to secure legislation for the extension of agricultural education, and the development of the Department of Agriculture \* \* \* and in procuring funds for the erection of buildings, and for instruction and research work \* \* \* \*'.

"He was instrumental in organizing the state agricultural society and in developing the state fair. It was partially his efforts that brought the national dairy show to Minnesota for two successive years.

"His interest in education continued. While he served in the Senate he worked for inauguration of the state teachers' pension system. He was for many years a trustee of Hamline University and endowed the chair of history there.

"During his life he was an enthusiastic worker in the Methodist Church, was a Thirty-second Degree Mason, and was active in the Saint Paul Business Men's League and the Commercial Club of his day.

"His first political venture was as a member of the Saint Paul city administration. In 1906 the people of his district elected him to the Senate, and they returned him for a second term, continuing his service through 1914. Many measures of importance were fostered and fought for by the late Senator.

"The life of Senator Hackney was a full one, indeed. He got much out of life and he gave much of his life for the good of his fellow men. Those of us who knew him remember him as a man of dignity endowed with a manner of graceful ease and quiet sincerity. He was understanding and sympathetic, always willing to take time to talk with and enjoy people, ever ready to offer assistance and constructive advice.

"Only those privileged to share in his home life can appreciate its beauty. — A home of plain living, high thinking and gracious hospitality.

"His passing came in his seventieth year and was mourned by his wife, who succeeded him in death last summer, and three devoted children, Mrs. C. H. Kellogg and Miss Ardena B. Hackney, of Saint Paul, and Malcome J. Hackney, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"Memory of the man himself may be comparatively short-lived, but his accomplishments in life and his many contributions to betterment of his native state, to education, to agriculture, and to health will long serve as a great monument to Joseph Malcome Hackney.

'They're passing away, these dear old friends,  
Like leaves on the current cast;  
With never a break in the rapid flow,  
We watch them as one by one they go  
Into the beautiful past.'

"Members of the Senate I could not close my participation in this service without a word in appreciation of my privilege in knowing two of the great stalwarts with whom I worked and loved.

"On September 19, 1945, news was flashed to us of the death of Senator William B. Richardson. We had watched anxiously his failing health for some considerable time, but still we hoped, for we were loath to let him go. Quiet of speech, but wise withall, slow to judge, but just in judgment.

"As I think of him today, I feel again the warmth of that gracious and happy spirit, which used to refresh all of us as he greeted us in the morning. To the abilities that made him an able and effective senator, Bill Richardson added a capacity for friendliness that made him tower above most men.

"He lived and died a true and courteous gentleman not alone in word, but far more in deed. We miss him in the Senate, we  
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mourn him in our hearts. In the purpling shadows of a September morning,

"God's finger touched him and he slept."

"He went down,

As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,  
Goes down with a great shout upon the hills,  
And leaves a lonesome place against the sky."

"Hail, Bill, and Farewell."

"On October 4, 1946, John Vincent Weber died at Slayton, Minnesota, after a fatal heart attack. His death came as a shock to all of us who were familiar with his vibrant personality. Quick witted, ready of speech, friendly, ardent in loyalty, we all will miss him in the Senate to which he brought his brilliant gifts as a member. His learning, his culture, his ability made him outstanding. His counsel was wise, his energy boundless, yet he was characterized, not so much by these qualities, important as they were, as by that innate urge that led him to champion so many causes which he thought would help others.

"As a citizen he had without public acclaim or hope of award responded to every roll call of public duty, battled in every cause for the advancement of his community, in the education of its youth, the uplift of its underprivileged, the purification of its politics, the enhancement of its attractions, and the acceleration of its progress. He had some habits that were a dragging burden to him, but through it all he spurned surrender and diverted defeat. Few men have possessed so many friends, and

none had greater loyalty to his friends. Senator Weber will be remembered long after the debates of many sessions have been stilled.

“Thus ends the scene! Earth’s fitful strife is o’er,  
For to its waiting shore  
One fateful day  
The boatman came, and with his dipping oar  
Bore him away.

“Peace, brother, peace! But O! thou boatman pale,  
If thou canst e’er reveal  
Thy journey’s end,  
Tell us thy secret; whither didst thou sail  
With him, our friend!”

The President then recognized the Senator from Itasca county, Mr. O’Brien, who addressed the Senate as follows.

*Mr. President:*

“It is fitting that we pause in our legislative deliberations to pay tribute to former members who have since our last session gained the realm of immortality.

“The departed member whom my humble remarks attempt to eulogize — the Honorable Alfred L. Thwing — is one whose life and record in themselves present a more lasting and impressive memorial than any words we can read into the record.

“There are but few of you who were here when Judge Thwing came to the Senate from our district after the election of 1922; in fact, the record shows there are now only three members still serving who were senators during the judge’s first session — Messrs. Orr, Carley and Bridgeman. But I am sure many of you knew Judge Thwing in the years he served as senator from the Fifty-second district; that you knew him for the man he was and, no doubt, you shared the feeling of trust, esteem and admiration which we, who were then his constituents, had for him.

“His record in the Senate is an exemplary one, for it represents unselfish devotion to duty and hours upon hours and days upon days of effort expended in fostering and bringing to culmination legislative measures and proposals which he felt would be beneficial to his people and the state. He was particularly interested in establishing a ten-mill school tax on property to provide additional revenue for operation of schools, and he was one of the leaders in establishing the farm school branch of our State University at Grand Rapids. In his characteristically modest way, he looked for no glory in these movements, albeit he richly deserved it.

“Alfred L. Thwing was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on April 1, 1876, the son of a newspaper publisher. In his boyhood years the family moved to Duluth, where he attended grade

school and completed his high school education. He attended the University of Minnesota, graduating from the College of Law in 1899. Upon his return to Duluth, he became a clerk in the office of the Judge of Probate, later was employed in a law office, and then interested in establishing his own business, went to Grand Rapids where he opened a law office.

"The first step in the judge's political career was his election to the office of County Attorney in Itasca County in 1906, at the time Koochiching County was being set apart from Itasca; this required much effort, and placed considerable responsibility upon the county attorney. In 1922 the voters of the Fifty-second district chose Mr. Thwing as their state senator, and they expressed their confidence in him again in 1926. During his tenure of that office he served as chairman of the Committee on Education and was a member of the Committees on Finance, Taxes and Judiciary, as well as several committees of lesser importance. As his second term was nearing its completion, he sought the office of Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial District in 1930; was elected, and held that high office until the day of his death — August 24, 1945. His wife, the former Mattie Wheelock, and one son, Larry, survive him.

"From the memorials of his fellow members of the Bar and his neighbors, I quote remarks which reflect the thought of so many of us. Of him the Bar members wrote:

" 'Most of us learned to know Judge Thwing as a member of the State Senate, where he served not only his own district and northern Minnesota, but the entire state efficiently and with great success. He was a true advocate, a real friend, a profound student of the law and sternly just.'

"And his home people said:

" 'No finer citizen will ever live here or anywhere else.'  
"God has called to his eternal reward a great man!"

The President then recognized the Senator from Hennepin county, Mr. Miller, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Fellow Members and Honored Guests:*

"Among those we honor today is the late senator from the Twentieth district, Louis Berg, who was born in 1898 in West St. Paul where he maintained his home until he moved to South St. Paul where he resided for several years and up to the time of his death in 1945. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Broomhall, who survives him. He attended the schools in West St. Paul and was a graduate of Mechanic Arts High School.

"Mr. Berg became interested in civic affairs early in his career and held office in the city council of West St. Paul in 1922. In 1926 he was elected to the legislature as a representative, which office he held until 1934, at which time he was elected to the Senate. He remained a member of this body for eight years and

because of an automobile accident in 1942 and its disabling effects he did not return to this group again. In 1944 he was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. He was always intensely interested in his district and bent all efforts for its progress and this entailed legislation for highways and schools and protection of home owners by tax exemption measures. He did not confine himself to local issues entirely. He was very interested in the civil service bill and served on the committee which was active in its behalf. He advocated a satisfactory tax program and strict economy in state government. He worked diligently on the things which are still under consideration by this body; namely, state aid for pupils of schools as well as their transportation. He was a champion of the underprivileged and handicapped.

“Senator Berg won many friends by his good nature and friendliness and tho he was stricken down while still in his prime of life, it can well be said of him that he followed the code of:

“True worth is in being, not seeing,—  
In doing, each day that goes by,  
Some little good — not in dreaming  
Of great things to do by and by.”

The President then recognized the Senator from Ramsey county, Mr. Novak, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*“Mr. President, Honored Guests and Members of the Senate:*

“When George Nordlin died last November 20th he was a national figure. He had served twice as National Grand Worthy President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the only man in the history of the organization to do so, and he had a record of accomplishment in the field of social security which deserved the acclaim and respect universally given to it.

“Mr. Nordlin was born at Bismarck, North Dakota, May 7, 1884, but except for his first year lived all of his life in St. Paul and got his education in the St. Paul public schools and the University of Minnesota. He was a practicing lawyer until his death. He is survived by his wife Olga and a stepson, Roland J. Oliver.

“His legislative career began with service in the State House of Representatives in the 1917, 1919 and 1921 sessions. Elected to the State Senate in 1923, he continued to serve his 38th district for a decade. As a legislator his reputation was wide, enviable, and earned, for he was diligent in his examination of the measures which attracted his attention and compellingly persuasive in explanation of his convictions.

“Perhaps the outstanding result of his work in the Senate was the enactment after years of persistent and well-directed effort



of the first Minnesota "Old Age Assistance Act". The almost unanimous favorable vote in the Senate on the measure and the general public support came in large degree from his forensic ability and earnest espousal. Indeed he was called the 'father' of the law.

"Interest in the problems of old age continued to dominate his life after leaving the Senate. The influence exerted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the campaign for old age assistance on a federal scale may be attributed largely to Mr. Nordlin's great prestige as an authority on the question and his untiring support of the movement. Ability and knowledge got him the honor of appointment as a member of the President's Committee on Economic Security. Had he wanted it, the position of Regional Director under the Social Security Act could have been his. National recognition, however, did not isolate him from his former colleagues, for he remained constantly in contact with them.

"George Nordlin was a man of rare judgment and firm convictions. He won the friendship and appreciation of his colleagues and enjoyed the confidence of many. As we pay him our humble tribute today we are ever mindful that the memories of his fine qualities will linger long in the minds and hearts of those who knew and loved him."

The President then recognized the Senator from Rice county, Mr. Goodhue, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Fellow Members, Friends:*

"We pause in our legislative duties today to pay homage to former fellow members who have departed this life since the 1945 session. William L. Roepke died May 20, 1945, at the age of seventy-two years. Senator Roepke was born in Lancaster, Wisconsin, was educated in Wisconsin and Iowa but his loyalty was to the state which he chose for his home, for which he devoted untiring efforts for its progress and its people. He is survived by his wife; daughters, Mrs. Doris Bear and Mrs. A. A. Nelson; sons, William C. and George.

"In 1926 he was elected to the Senate from the 18th District. He sponsored bills relating to the improvement of farm products because it was a familiar field to him. Later he became interested in motor traffic laws and encouraged the passage of the driver's license bill and worked to enact legislation calling for financial responsibility on the part of those operating motor vehicles. His interest in traffic led him to assist those who were concerned with highways and he was an author of the bill to divert a part of the gas tax to townships for highway purposes. In 1931 he was appointed chairman of the committee on motor vehicles and motor tax laws, which position he held for several sessions, also serving on many other committees. His devotion to duty was keen. He considered his political efforts as a duty imposed by the privileges of citizenship.

"His was not a one-sided nature. He was active in the fraternal groups and among these were the Lions and the Elks. His Masonic affiliation included the Knights Templar and the Shrine. His religious affiliation was with the Lutheran Church. His varied hobbies were baseball, shooting, checkers and chess. It was this diversity that helped create for him many real friends of whom he was genuinely fond. There is perhaps no one who would wish more sincerely to have no mourning at his passing. He would say to us here today: 'And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea.'"

The President then recognized the Senator from Pennington county, Mr. Dahlquist, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Guests of Honor, Members of the Senate:*

"To me, as to others who numbered 'Vin' Weber as a friend, the report of his death came unexpectedly. My association with 'Vin' dated back many years prior to my coming to the Legislature. Because of our common interest in newspaper work and because of our close association as members and officers of the State Editorial Association, along with our later association in this body, I probably had occasion to know him better than many others who were close to him. Our relationship was fraternal and intimate as well as friendly, and the report of his sudden and entirely unexpected death was a great shock to me.

"On this occasion I would like to speak a word of tribute to his life of unselfish service. I knew his deep devotion to his own community. I knew of his great contribution to that community and of the effort he put forth to advance its interests, and how through the medium of his paper he spread the fame of his beloved Murrayland. That his efforts to advance the interests of his own community were appreciated by its citizens was attested to time and again by the confidence in him that was expressed by his neighbors in many ways. He was highly respected by the people who knew him as a neighbor.

"The excellence of his newspaper, his ability as an editor and a publisher, and his capacity for leadership were recognized by his fellow publishers when, in spite of his youth at that time, they elected him president of their state association, the youngest man in the history of the organization to hold that office.

"The value of his contribution to this body is recognized by all who served with him. I personally owe him a special debt of gratitude for the assistance he gave me as a new member.

"Those of us who served with him will agree that 'Vin' Weber was a man of strong convictions. He had an active mind and he had ideas, it seemed to me, on all subjects. He expressed himself freely and effectively. But the one thing that he tried to impress upon me, as a new member, and he mentioned it time and again, was that in this body a member had only one obligation and that was to speak and act according to his own honest convictions and beliefs. Most of the time 'Vin' and I moved in the same direction. We did not always agree however, but never once, when we disagreed, did I feel that he bore any resentment because of the fact that we differed.

"And, never once, in my relationship with 'Vin' Weber, did I question his sincerity or his honesty. Like a good umpire, he 'called them as he saw them.'

"In the death of 'Vin' Weber the State of Minnesota lost one of its courageous and far sighted leaders — the newspaper fraternity lost one of its most capable members — Murrayland lost one of its most loyal citizens — and I lost a friend."

The President then recognized the Senator from Lyon county, Mr. Almen, who addressed the Senate as follows:

*"Mr. President, Guests of Honor, Fellow Members:*

"I personally knew four of the men whose memory we are honoring this afternoon. I am rising to speak extemporaneously and to publicly acknowledge my debt for the friendship which my neighbor J. V. Weber bestowed upon me. We were neighbors. Out in the small towns and in the rural sections of the state neighborliness, friendliness, kindness are the hallmarks of true manhood. Under that definition Vin Weber ranked among the highest.

"Often he asked me to ride with him as we came to and from the meetings of the legislature. On such occasions we discussed a great many things: local happenings, local problems, sectional problems, state problems, national problems, religion, philosophy and whatnot and I found him a stimulating person to associate with. Above all I think his hospitality, his generosity, his breadth of view, his lack of bigotry or prejudice were the things that set him high in my estimation.

"I mourn his passing as that of one of my dearest friends and I am trying in my humble way to repay the debt I owe him for what he meant to me by these brief remarks this afternoon."

#### MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS—CONTINUED.

Mr. Miller moved that the memorials and personal tributes as presented and read be approved and spread upon the pages of the Journal of the Senate.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Miller moved that the Secretary of the Senate be, and he hereby is, instructed to send enrolled copies of the memorials and personal tributes, as presented and read, to the widows of the deceased Senators or their next of kin.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Miller moved that as a further tribute to the memory of the late Senators William B. Richardson and J. V. Weber and former Senators William L. Roepke, Alfred L. Thwing, George Nordlin, Joseph M. Hackney, and Louis E. Berg the Senate do now adjourn.

Which motion prevailed.

H. Y. TORREY,  
Secretary of the Senate.