

BROOKS HAYS BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Brooks Hays was born August 9, 1898 near Russellville, Arkansas. Politics and public affairs played major roles in his home life, so it is not surprising that his career early turned to these fields. His first active part in politics came shortly after he graduated from law school in 1922 and helped manage his father's unsuccessful campaign for the same Congressional seat he himself was to win twenty years later.

He received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arkansas in 1919 and his juris doctor's degree from George Washington University in 1922. He also holds honorary degrees from a number of universities (doctor of laws, doctor of humanities, and doctor of divinity).

When only 30, Mr. Hays sought the Democratic nomination for governor of Arkansas. In a field of seven candidates, including the incumbent and a closely knit organization, he finished second. Two years later he again ran for governor against the same incumbent, and although he drew far more votes, again was runner-up. His first success in a statewide primary came in 1932, when he was elected Democratic National Committeeman, carrying 73 of the state's 75 counties. He was re-elected to the post in 1936.

During his years of law practice and political activity, Mr. Hays became intensely interested in social work and became a recognized authority on farm tenancy in the South. In 1936 he was called to Washington to assist in a legislative program under which tenant families could become independent farm owners. He considers his assistance in drafting the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to be one

of the most gratifying incidents in his legislative career.

He has long fought for the extension of educational and economic opportunities for minorities and others in the South, taking an active part in inter-racial organizations. After coming to Congress he continued his interest in this complex problem. In an address on the floor of the House on February 2, 1949 -- praised by some Southern editors as an historic utterance -- he outlined the "Arkansas Plan" to extend full civil rights to minority groups. His constructive work on civil rights legislation accounted for his appointment to the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Conventions in 1952 and 1956. It was this interest in building bridges of understanding between the races that led him to arrange the Newport Conference between Governor Orval Faubus and President Eisenhower at the time of the Little Rock school desegregation crisis. He paid a high price for his courage when he was defeated for re-election to a 9th term in the Congress in an 8-day write-in campaign.

Mr. Hays is a well-known churchman and in 1959 received the national award "Churchman of the Year" from the Religious Heritage of America. He has served as chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and in 1957 was elected president of the Convention itself, a position to which he was re-elected in 1958. He has also served with distinction as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and of the National Council of Churches.

He was one of the founders of Former Members of Congress in 1970 and with Walter H. Judd, Republican of Minnesota, served as first Co-

Chairman of this organization.

His articles and addresses deal with topics of special interest to civic, church and college groups. He is much in demand as a speech-maker. His public appearances are enlivened by a Lincolnesque fund of stories and he is regarded as one of the best storytellers in the United States. Mr. Hays is the author of THIS WORLD: A CHRISTIAN'S WORKSHOP, published by Broadman Press; A SOUTHERN MODERATE SPEAKS, published by the University of North Carolina Press; and co-author with Dr. John E. Steely of THE BAPTIST WAY OF LIFE, published by Prentice-Hall. His latest book, HOTBED OF TRANQUILITY, was published by Macmillan Company in 1968.

The role of educator is one which fits Brooks Hays well. He is a member of the governing boards of George Peabody College for Teachers and George Washington University and is a consultant to Wake Forest University. He has served as Arthur Vanderbilt Professor of Politics at Rutgers University, Guest Professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the North Carolina State University at Raleigh and was the Director of the Ecumenical Institute of Wake Forest University from 1968 till 1972. It was during his service at Wake Forest University that Mr. Hays chose North Carolina as his home. Upon terminating that service, he and Mrs. Hays officially adopted Washington, D. C. as their residence.

Mr. Hays is a member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Buffalo in 1957. He is a 33^o Mason, a member of the American Bar Association, the American Legion, The Lions Club, and the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Chi fraternities.

Mr. Hays was elected to the 78th Congress in 1942 and served for sixteen years. For eight years he was a member of the Banking and Currency Committee and after 1950 served on the Foreign Affairs Committee. During the 82nd Congress he was a member of the Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and on the death of Chairman Cox of Georgia, was named acting chairman. In the 83rd and 84th Congresses he was a member of the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. In 1955 he was a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations. In 1958 he was a member of the Select Committee on Space Exploration and Astronautics, which launched the space program. He was named a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority by President Eisenhower in 1959. He served in this post until 1961 when President Kennedy appointed him Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations and then Special Assistant to the President. He has also served as Special Assistant and Consultant to President Johnson.

While a resident of North Carolina he served as Chairman of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, (1970 - 74).

In 1975 he received the Charles Evans Hughes Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for "distinguished and courageous public service."