

# Fathers of the Senate, 1890–1946

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By 1890, senators' concern for the office of president pro tempore led to a resolution that fundamentally changed it from a temporary to a continuous office. Since the Senate appointed presidents pro tempore only during the absences of the vice president, during each session, several senators might serve briefly as president pro tempore, or one senator might be elected to perform the functions on multiple occasions. Those who held the post found that its formal duties were as much a chore as an honor, requiring them to preside for long hours over lengthy debates and tedious speeches or persuade other senators to temporarily take their place. In order to give the post more stature and continuity, senators proposed that the term of a president pro tempore should last until another was elected, meaning that someone might hold the office through several Congresses. Meanwhile, during the era between the 1890s and the Second World War, vice presidents continued to preside regularly over the debates of the Senate.

Early in 1889, several senators introduced resolutions specifying that the president pro tempore's term should not expire upon the return of the vice president from an absence, but should continue "at the pleasure of the Senate." These resolutions were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Supporters of the change pointed out that the Constitution made the vice president the "President of the Senate," but did not require him to preside, nor did the Constitution specifically limit the tenure of the president pro tempore. This argument did not meet with universal

favor. Senator James Z. George, a Democrat from Mississippi, voiced a strictly literal interpretation that the constitutional provision allowing for the Senate to elect a president pro tempore "in the absence of the Vice-President" meant exactly that. About a year later, in February 1890, the Committee on Privileges and Elections reported out a resolution calling for continuous service.

Senators who supported the change noted that while the president pro tempore at that time no longer held a place in the line of succession to the presidency, the post still had important duties. An unexpected absence by the vice president could leave the Senate without a presiding officer, particularly if a quorum was lacking to elect a president pro tempore. They urged the change for the "convenience of the Senate." Republicans holding the majority in the Senate of the 51st Congress supported the measure, while most Democrats remained skeptical, with Mississippi's James George lamenting that "this great constitutional question, which has been settled by the practice of a hundred years,

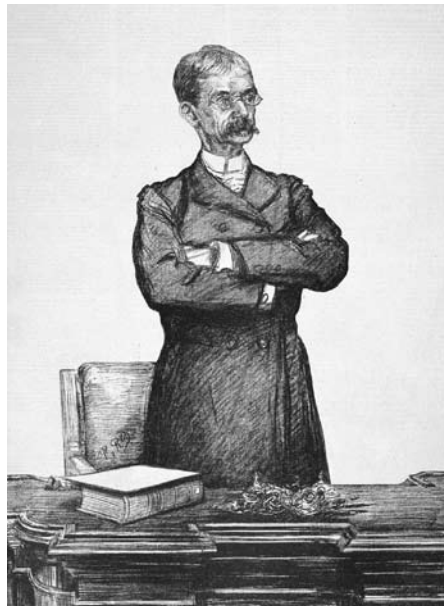


*Senator James Z. George believed that the Senate should elect a president pro tempore only in the absence of the vice president.*

has recently undergone revision in the high court of the Republican caucus.” In the end, the supporters prevailed. The committee’s resolution, adopted on March 12, 1890, read:

*Resolved*, That it is competent for the Senate to elect a President *pro tempore*, who shall hold the office during the pleasure of the Senate and until another is elected, and shall execute the duties thereof during all future absences of the Vice-President until the Senate shall otherwise order.

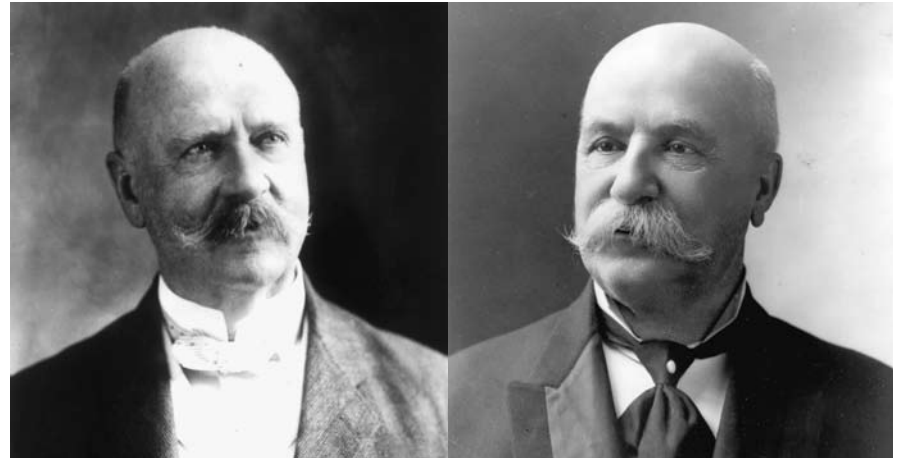
On April 3, 1890, the first president *pro tempore* elected under the new rule was Kansas Republican Senator John J. Ingalls, marking the fifth time between 1887 and 1890 that the Senate named him to the post. Senator Ingalls, however, was defeated for reelection to the Senate that year, and, in March 1891, the Senate elected Charles F. Manderson, a Nebraska Republican, who held the post continuously until Democrats regained the majority. When Republicans again took control in the 54th Congress, they elected Maine Senator William P.



*The sharp-tongued John J. Ingalls served as president pro tempore from 1887 to 1891.*

Frye president *pro tempore* on February 7, 1896. Republicans held the majority for 18 years and Frye held the post continuously for 15 years until ill health forced him to step down in 1911.

Senator Frye’s death and the subsequent vacancy caused difficulties for his party. By 1911, the Republican party had split into progressive and conservative wings. Conservatives nominated as president *pro tempore* Jacob H. Gallinger of New Hampshire, who initially won the endorsement of the party conference. In the full Senate, however, progressive Republicans refused to accept Gallinger and instead nominated Minnesota Senator



*In 1911, a Senate deadlock prevented the election of a president pro tempore and tied up Senate business for weeks. A compromise finally resulted in Democrat Augustus Bacon (left) and Republican Jacob Gallinger (right), who looked remarkably similar, alternating days on which they presided.*

Moses Clapp. Democrats chose Georgia Senator Augustus Bacon. In the three-way race that followed, no one gained the absolute majority that the Senate, by custom, had required for election to that office. Repeatedly in May and June of 1911, the Senate tried but failed to elect a president *pro tempore*. In desperation and spurred by the precarious health of Vice President James Schoolcraft Sherman—who eventually died in office—the Senate agreed to a compromise. The Democrat, Augustus Bacon, would rotate in office with Republican Jacob Gallinger, each presiding on alternate days. Three other Republicans, Charles Curtis, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Frank Brandegee, were also elected as presidents *pro tempore* for short periods as needed. This awkward arrangement ended in 1913 when Democrats regained the majority following the 1912 election and elected Senator James P. Clarke of Arkansas as president *pro tempore*.

Controversy erupted again in 1923 following the death of President Warren G. Harding, which elevated Vice President Calvin Coolidge to the presidency. At the time, the president *pro tempore* was Iowa Republican Albert B. Cummins, who had held that office since 1919. He had started his political career as a progressive but had grown more conservative over the years. Progressive Republicans

objected that Senator Cummins also chaired the Interstate Commerce Committee, and said they would not vote for him for president pro tempore until he relinquished his committee chairmanship in favor of progressive Senator Robert La Follette, Sr. Cummins refused and a long battle raged. Since he had already been elected in previous Congresses, Cummins held onto his post as president pro tempore, but he lost his committee chairmanship to a conservative Democrat, Ellison D. “Cotton Ed” Smith of South Carolina, when the progressives sided with Smith rather than Cummins.

After Albert Cummins lost his race for reelection in 1926, the Republican majority elected New Hampshire Senator George Moses. An outspoken leader of the “Old Guard,” Moses had belittled his progressive colleagues as “Sons of the Wild Jackass.” In the election of 1930, Republicans retained the majority in the Senate by a single vote, 48 to 47, with a Farmer Labor senator serving as an independent. Progressive Republicans set out to defeat Moses for president pro tempore. Realizing that Moses did not have the support of a majority of senators, Republican Majority Leader James Watson tried to avoid bringing the matter to a vote, but Democratic Minority Leader Joseph T. Robinson called for a vote, leading to a month-long deadlock with no candidate achieving a majority. Finally, Republican Vice President Charles Curtis ruled that the Senate could take up other pending business and that Moses could serve as president pro tempore until his successor was elected. The voters again settled the issue by defeating Senator Moses in 1932 and electing a Democratic majority, which took control of the Senate at the start of the New Deal years.

During the years of Democratic majority, which continued until 1947, several senators held the post of president pro tempore. Nevada Senator Key Pittman served in that capacity from 1933 until his death in 1940. His successor, Utah Senator William H. King, who was elected president pro tempore largely as a tribute by his colleagues, served less than two months since he had just lost his race for renomination to another term. Mississippi Senator Pat Harrison became president pro tempore in 1941, but he died in office later that year. Senator Carter Glass of Virginia succeeded him, but old age and a serious heart ailment kept him away from the Senate for several years after 1942. On January 6, 1946, Kenneth



*Kenneth McKellar was the senior Senate Democrat in 1945 when he became president pro tempore.*

McKellar of Tennessee—the most senior Democrat at the time—became president pro tempore, thus beginning another Senate tradition, that the office of president pro tempore go to the senior member of the majority party.





## 57. Charles Frederick Manderson (*Nebraska*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1891–1893

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1883, to March 3, 1895

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1837

*Died:* Aboard the steamship Cedric in the harbor of Liverpool, England, September 28, 1911

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**Education:** Attended the schools and academies of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; studied law in Canton, Ohio.

**Non-Senate Career:** Charles F. Manderson was admitted to the bar in 1859 and began practicing law in Canton, Ohio. The next year, he was elected city solicitor of Canton. During the Civil War, he entered the army as a first lieutenant and rose through the grades of captain, major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel. He was brevetted brigadier general of Volunteers, United States Army, in 1865. After the war, he was the attorney of Stark County, Ohio. In 1869, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he continued the practice of law. He was the city attorney of Omaha for six years and a member of the Nebraska state constitutional conventions in 1871 and 1875. After serving two terms in the U.S. Senate, Manderson was appointed general solicitor of the Burlington system of railroads west of the Missouri River. He was also vice president of the American Bar Association in 1899 and president in 1900.

**Committee Chair:** Printing (1883–1893)

**Observations:** “The presiding officer of the Senate, however, has an easy task. Things that would startle other legislative bodies—raise a disturbance in the House, perhaps—do not cause a ripple in the Senate. The most pleasant years of my life were spent as President pro tempore of the Senate. And that reminds me of the first time I was called to the chair of that body. Senator Edmunds, of Vermont, was then presiding officer. I had not been in the Senate long, when one day the late Isaac Bassett, the venerable doorkeeper of the Senate, came to me and told me that Senator Edmunds desired me to take his place in the chair. Naturally, I was astonished. I went to the rostrum and expressed my surprise that the Senator from Vermont should have called upon me. I explained that I was inexperienced and knew nothing about the rules of the Senate. I shall never forget the look Senator Edmunds gave me when he said: ‘My young friend, the best place in the world to learn the rules of the Senate is right here in the chair.’”

~ Senator Charles F. Manderson, *Washington Post*, December 8, 1908.

**Further Reading:** Manderson, Charles F. *The Twin Seven-Shooters*. New York: F. Tennyson Neely, 1902.



## 58. Isham Green Harris (*Tennessee*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1893–1895

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1877, to July 8, 1897

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Near Tullahoma, Franklin County, Tennessee, February 10, 1818

*Died:* Washington, D.C., July 8, 1897

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**Education:** Attended the common schools and Winchester Academy; studied law.

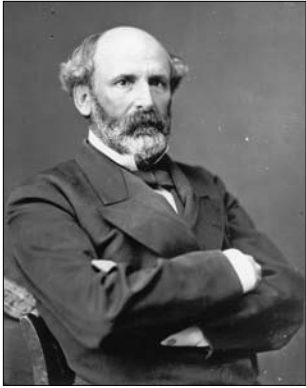
**Non-Senate Career:** Isham Harris was admitted to the Tennessee bar in 1841 and practiced law in Paris, Henry County, Tennessee. He was elected to the state senate in 1847 and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from March 4, 1849, to March 3, 1853. He declined to be a candidate for renomination in 1852. During his House service, he was chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions (1851–1853). He moved to Memphis in 1853 and resumed the practice of law. In 1855, he was appointed associate justice of the Tennessee supreme court. He was elected governor of Tennessee in 1857, 1859, and 1861, and committed Tennessee to the Confederate cause. He served in the Confederate army for the last three years of the Civil War. After the Civil War, he fled first to Mexico, and then to England, but returned to Tennessee in 1867 and resumed the practice of law in Memphis.

**Committee Chair:** District of Columbia (1879–1881, 1893–1895); Epidemic Diseases (1885–1893); Private Land Claims (1895–1897)

**Observations:** “The president *pro tempore* of the Senate at that time was Isham G. Harris of Tennessee, nicknamed ‘Mandarin,’ a name suggested by his long rat-tail mustache. Mr. Harris was a popular man and an able debater, and it was his habit in the afternoon about adjournment time to drop into the Senate and indulge in a little speech-making just in the way of a good-natured scolding or spanking of his colleagues. These daily lectures gave genuine entertainment and were greatly missed after Harris left the Senate.”

~ Senate Sergeant at Arms David S. Barry in 1924, from David S. Barry, *Forty Years in Washington* (New York: Beekman Publishers, 1974), 188.

**Further Reading:** U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 55th Cong., 2nd sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1898; Watters, George W. “Isham Green Harris, Civil War Governor and Senator from Tennessee, 1818–1897.” Ph.D. dissertation, Florida State University, 1977.



## 59. Matt Whitaker Ransom (*North Carolina*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1895

*Senate Service:* January 30, 1872, to March 3, 1895

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Warren County, North Carolina, October 8, 1826

*Died:* Near Garysburg, Northampton County, North Carolina, on October 8, 1904

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**Education:** Attended a private academy; graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1847; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** In 1847, Matt Ransom was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Warrenton, North Carolina. He was a presidential elector on the Whig ticket in 1852 and the attorney general of North Carolina from 1852 until 1855. Ransom served as a member of the state house of commons between 1858 and 1861. He became a peace commissioner to the Provisional Confederate Congress at Montgomery, Alabama, in 1861. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate army, attaining the rank of major general. Following his long tenure in the U.S. Senate, Ransom served as United States Minister to Mexico from 1895 until 1897. He then retired to manage his estates in North Carolina.

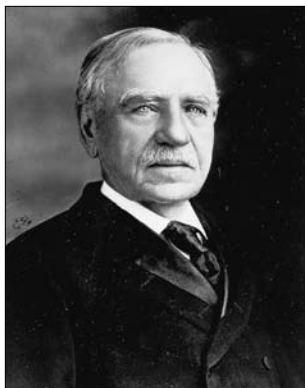
**Committee Chair:** Commerce (1879–1881, 1893–1895); Railroads (1879–1881); Private Land Claims (1885–1893)

**Observations:** “The dandy of the Senate is Matt Ransom. He is always dressed in black diagonal and wears his coat closely buttoned as he moves about the chamber with stately stride, pulling down his white cuffs so that at least three inches of them may be seen below his coat sleeves. He seldom appears in the Senate without gloves. His favorite hat is a slouch, and he wears it as though it was a badge of military greatness.”

~ *New York Times*, March 28, 1886.

“But Mr. Ransom was never a social man, nor a jovial man. He did not keep open house, and his Northampton home was modest almost to plainness. He had few friends. When in Washington he lived alone, his family remaining in North Carolina, his apartments at the old Metropolitan being simple yet dignified. He rather tolerated than loved the populace, and they did not love him. He cracked no jokes with them. When in a crowd he was manifestly restless and nervous and did all the talking himself. To mingle with the people was an effort for him, but he was cordial, polite, [and] majestic in manner.”

~ Robert W. Winston, *Address at the Unveiling of the Bust of Matt W. Ransom by the North Carolina Historical Commission* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1911), 14.



## 60. William Pierce Frye (*Maine*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1896–1911

*Senate Service:* March 18, 1881, to August 8, 1911

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine, September 2, 1830

*Died:* Lewiston, Maine, August 8, 1911

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**Education:** Attended the public schools in Lewiston; graduated from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, in 1850; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** William Frye was admitted to the bar in 1853 and practiced law in Rockland, Maine. He returned to Lewiston, Maine, and continued to practice law. He served in Maine's house of representatives from 1861 to 1862 and again in 1867 after serving one term as mayor of Lewiston, from 1866 to 1867. He was attorney general of Maine from 1867 to 1869 and became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 4, 1871, serving until March 17, 1881.

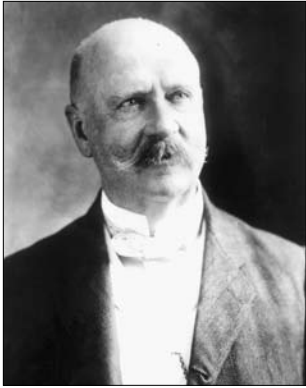
**Committee Chair:** Rules (1881–1887); Commerce (1887–1893, 1895–1911)

**Observations:** “In 1896, when the Republicans obtained command of the Senate during the Presidency of President [Grover] Cleveland, Senator Frye was elected President pro tem, and it happened twice during his long term of office, through the death of Vice President [Garret A.] Hobart and the assassination of President [William] McKinley, that he became the regular presiding officer. His rule was noted for its scrupulous fairness, and it was with the greatest reluctance that his colleagues heard last April that ill-health compelled him to resign. However, his successor has never been appointed, and in consequence retained his office to the last.”

~ *New York Times* obituary, April 9, 1911.

**Further Reading:** U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 62nd Cong., 3rd sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913.





## 61. Augustus Octavius Bacon (*Georgia*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1911, 1912, 1913

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1895, to February 14, 1914

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Bryan County, Georgia, October 20, 1839

*Died:* Washington, D.C., February 14, 1914

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**Education:** Attended the common schools in Liberty County and Troup County, Georgia; graduated from the literary department of the University of Georgia at Athens in 1859 and from its law department in 1860.

**Non-Senate Career:** Admitted to the bar in 1860, Augustus O. Bacon practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia. He served in the Confederate army during the Civil War and participated in the campaigns of 1861 and 1862 as adjutant of the Ninth Georgia Regiment in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was commissioned captain in the Provisional Army of the Confederacy and assigned to general staff duty. He became a member of the state house of representatives in 1871 and remained until 1886, serving as speaker pro tempore for two terms and as speaker eight years. He was also president of the Democratic state convention in 1880.

**Committee Chair:** Engrossed Bills (1907–1911); Private Land Claims (1909–1913); Foreign Relations (1913–1914)

**Observations:** “One of the growing demands of our modern conditions is the election of United States senators by the people. In the demand for such a constitutional change many obstacles are met with, and it will be a long time before success in that line is achieved, but this morning, by the unanimous vote of the people of Georgia, cast in their little district voting places from the mountains to the sea, Hon. Augustus Bacon is presented to the people of the United

States as our chosen senator. His past record in the senate was before the people, in all of its parts. His personal industry and fidelity were brought under full scrutiny, and without the expenditure of a dollar, without the delivery of a single address, without the loss of one moment of time on his part, his people have selected him to represent them for another six years in the chief body of the land. In this way Senator Bacon will stand in that august body, which has been graced by Calhoun, Webster and Clay, as the personal representatives of the new plan by which [Matthew] Quayism and [William] Clarkism can be rendered impossible, and Georgia will have the credit of having inaugurated this change in its most effective form.”

~ *Atlanta Constitution* editorial on the state primary that selected Augustus Bacon for another term, May 16, 1900.

**Further Reading:** Steelman, Lola Carr. “The Public Career of Augustus Bacon.” Ph.D. dissertation, University of North Carolina, 1950; U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 63rd Cong., 3rd sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1915.



## 62. Charles Curtis (*Kansas*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1911

*Senate Service:* January 29, 1907, to March 3, 1913; March 4, 1915, to March 3, 1929

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Topeka, Kansas, January 25, 1860

*Died:* Washington, D.C., February 8, 1936

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**Education:** Attended the common schools; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** Charles Curtis was admitted to the Kansas bar in 1881 and practiced law in Topeka. He was prosecuting attorney of Shawnee County from 1885 to 1889 and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from March 4, 1893, until January 28, 1907, when he became a U.S. senator. During his House service, he was chairman of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of the Interior (1895–1903). In 1928, he was elected vice president of the United States on the Republican ticket headed by Herbert Hoover, was inaugurated on March 4, 1929, and served until March 3, 1933. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the vice presidency in 1932 and resumed the practice of law in Washington, D.C.

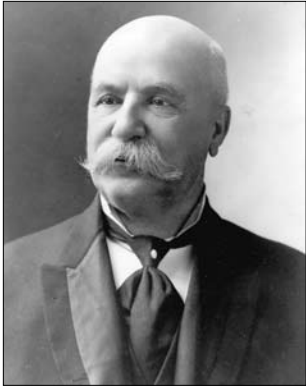
**Senate Offices:** Republican Conference chairman (1924–1929); Republican whip (1915–1924); majority leader (1925–1929); vice president (1929–1933)

**Committee Chair:** Indian Depredations (1905–11); Coast Defenses (1911–13)

**Observations:** “While Mr. Curtis and I often disagreed on legislative matters, yet in all my acquaintance I have never known him to violate his word or to fail to carry out in good faith any agreement that he had made. In our joint legislative experience, especially while he was the leader of his party in the Senate, I had many occasions to reach an agreement with him of which there was no evidence except his word and, without exception, he always carried out his agreements in good faith and kept his word inviolate.”

~ Senator George W. Norris in the *Washington Star*, February 8, 1936.

**Further Reading:** Unrau, William E. *Mixed Bloods and Tribal Dissolution: Charles Curtis and the Quest for Indian Identity*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989; Schlup, Leonard. “Charles Curtis: The Vice-President from Kansas.” *Manuscripts* 35 (Summer 1983): 183–201.



## 63. Jacob Harold Gallinger (*New Hampshire*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1912, 1913

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1891, to August 17, 1918

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, March 28, 1837

*Died:* Franklin, New Hampshire, August 17, 1918

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**Education:** Attended the common schools and completed an academic course; studied medicine and graduated from the Cincinnati (Ohio) Medical Institute in 1858; studied abroad for two years.

**Non-Senate Career:** At the age of 12, Jacob Gallinger was apprenticed to a printer. He practiced this trade for several years before turning his attention to medicine. Gallinger practiced medicine and surgery in Concord, New Hampshire. He was a member of the state house of representatives from 1872 to 1873, and again in 1891. He served as a member of the state constitutional convention in 1876 and was a member of the state senate from 1878 to 1880. Gallinger was the surgeon general of New Hampshire, with the rank of brigadier general, from 1879 to 1880. He served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, from March 4, 1885, to March 3, 1889, and was chairman of the Merchant Marine Commission from 1904 until 1905.

**Senate Offices:** Republican Conference chairman (1913–1918)

**Committee Chair:** Transportation Routes to the Seaboard (1891–1893); Pensions (1895–1903); District of Columbia (1901–1911)

**Observations:** “He was a conservative in most of his notions, narrow in some. He was an ancient enemy of civil service reform. He didn’t believe that railroads were an abomination and a curse. He held to the old Republican gospel of ship subsidies. Firm was his faith in a protective tariff, heaven-sent, heaven-high. He was thoroughly

old school, even if, as a wily politician, he kindly assented to venerable woman suffrage. He was long a faithful friend of fat River and Harbor bills, but he brought himself to filibuster against one. He was ‘solid for’ pensions. An ally of Senator [Nelson] Aldrich and Speaker [Joseph] Cannon, he was viewed with alarm by the Progressives and the [Robert] La Follettians, not merely as an obstructor of their political virtue, but on account of his attachment to party discipline, and, in the Senate, his knowledge of form and precedent, his devotion to parliamentary law, his unpleasant habit of knowing what he was about.”

~ *New York Times* editorial, August 18, 1918.

**Further Reading:** Schlup, Leonard. “Consistent Conservative: Jacob Harold Gallinger and the Presidential Campaign of 1912 in New Hampshire.” *International Review of History and Political Science* 21 (August 1984): 49–57; U.S. Congress. *Memorial Services for Jacob Harold Gallinger*. 65th Cong., 3rd sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919.



## 64. Frank Bosworth Brandegee (*Connecticut*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1912

*Senate Service:* May 10, 1905, to October 14, 1924

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* New London, Connecticut, July 8, 1864

*Died:* Washington, D.C., October 14, 1924

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**Education:** Attended the common schools; graduated from Yale College in 1885; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** Frank Brandegee was admitted to the bar in 1888 and practiced law in New London, Connecticut. He was elected to the state house of representatives in 1888, and then served as the corporation counsel of New London from 1889 to 1893, and again from 1894 to 1897, when he resigned. After serving again in the state house of representatives, where he was chosen as speaker in 1899, he was again elected as the corporation counsel of New London and served from 1901 to 1902. In 1904, he was chairman of the Republican state convention. He became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on November 4, 1902, and served until May 10, 1905.

**Committee Chair:** Forest Reservations and Game Protection (1905–1911); Interoceanic Canals (1911–1913); Panama (1911–1913); Pacific Railroads (1913–1919); Library (1919–1923); Judiciary (1923–1924)

**Observations:** “If Senator Brandegee had a fault as a public character, it was his excessive modesty, his shrinking from undue notoriety. He liked praise, just as any other mortal, but only when he felt it warranted. He

could not see the propriety of self-advertising. He could not invoke the services of a publicity man. He spoke in the Senate only when he thought there was need for his caution or advice. He never made speeches like so many of our public men purely for home consumption. He did not seek the limelight. Because his name did not appear often in the public prints many no doubt were misled to believe that he was not active in the performance of his duties. As a matter of fact, no senator especially in recent years had such heavy burdens thrown upon him by reason of his many committee memberships. . . . He was a plain spoken man with much dry wit, with a tendency toward cynicism. He was not given to flowery language, and retained to the end in his speech and conversation many New England characteristic phrases.”

~ *New London, Connecticut, Evening Day*, October 15, 1924

**Further Reading:** Janick, Herbert. “Senator Frank B. Brandegee and the Election of 1920.” *Historian* 35 (May 1973): 434–51; U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 68th Cong., 1st sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1925.



## 65. Henry Cabot Lodge (*Massachusetts*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1912

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1893, to November 9, 1924

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Boston, Massachusetts, May 12, 1850

*Died:* Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 9, 1924

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**Education:** Attended a private school; graduated from Harvard University in 1871; graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1874; earned one of the first Ph.D. degrees in history and government granted by Harvard University in 1876.

**Non-Senate Career:** From 1873 until 1876, Henry Cabot Lodge worked as an editor of the *North American Review*. He was admitted to the bar in 1875 and was a lecturer on American history at Harvard University from 1876 until 1879. He entered politics and served as a member of the state house of representatives from 1880 until 1881. He was the author of many historical, biographical, and political works. Lodge was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served from March 4, 1887, until March 3, 1893, when he resigned in order to serve in the U.S. Senate. In 1903, he was a member of the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal, and from 1907 to 1910, he was a member of the United States Immigration Commission. Lodge served as overseer of Harvard University from 1911 until 1924 and represented the United States as a member of the Conference on Limitation of Armament in 1921.

**Senate Offices:** Republican Conference chairman (1918–1924)

**Committee Chair:** Immigration (1895–1913); Printing (1897–1899); Philippines (1899–1911); Private Land Claims (1913–1919); Foreign Relations (1919–1924)

**Observations:** “As a statesman, he is one of the leaders in the nation today; as a writer, scholar, and student, he is notable. The Senate of the United States welcomes him to its counsel as a keen debater, a man of correct judgment, a committee worker of skill and ardor, and a leader of sagacity and virtue. . . . He is a man approachable, and yet not easy to approach. None would be ill-mannered with the Senator, because his splendid bearing, his nobly set head, and the achievement which shines from his eyes compel respect and courtesy. Lodge is tall and slight; he dresses carefully and in the mode, yet with a quiet elegance and correctness that few can effectually attain. His eyes are full of humor, deep and bright, and there is about him an air of elegance and ease which is difficult to set down in words. When he rises in the Senate, he is respectfully heard. His set speeches are classic; his occasional talks are full of authority, yet they are courteous and broad. In every sense but the objectionable, Henry Cabot Lodge instantly suggests a superior man, a member of a gentility which is alone found among the able and the great of this world.”

~ Orlando Oscar Stealey, *130 Pen Pictures of Live Men* (Washington, D.C.: Publishers Printing Company [New York], 1910), 267–68.

**Further Reading:** Garraty, John A. *Henry Cabot Lodge: A Biography*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1953; Lodge, Henry Cabot. *The Senate of the United States, and Other Essays and Addresses Historical and Literary*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1925.



## 66. James Paul Clarke (*Arkansas*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1913–1916

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1903, to October 1, 1916

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Mississippi, August 18, 1854

*Died:* Little Rock, Arkansas, October 1, 1916

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**Education:** Attended the public schools and Professor Tutwilder’s Academy, Greenbrier, Alabama; graduated from the law department of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville in 1878.

**Non-Senate Career:** James Clarke moved to Helena, Arkansas, in 1879, was admitted to the bar, and established a law practice. He was elected to the state house of representatives in 1886, where he served until 1888, when he was elected to the state senate. He represented Helena in the state senate until 1892, serving as president in 1891 and ex officio lieutenant governor. He was elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1892 and served until 1894, when he declined to be a candidate for renomination. He was governor of Arkansas from 1895 to 1896. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1896 but lost and for the next six years, resumed his law practice in Little Rock.

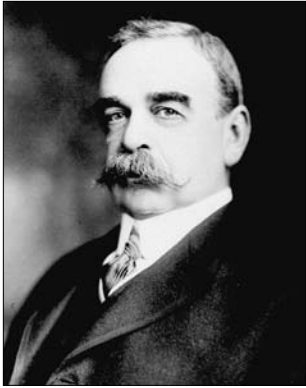
**Committee Chair:** Disposition of Useless Executive Papers (1909–1913); Commerce (1913–1916)

**Observations:** “What we mean by calling a man a character I hardly know. Perhaps we intend to imply that he is different from ourselves and different from the large body of mankind. If that be true then Senator

James P. Clarke was a character. There was no finer lawyer in the Senate of the United States. He knew great principles, and he had the ability to present his ideas with great clarity. He was the only man in all my experience who had the newspaper fraternity scared. He would not see or talk to a reporter, and it was only a new man in Washington who dared to approach him with the idea of obtaining either information or his views on public questions. He was a real independent and a real believer in representative government. He did not believe that his constituents had a right to annoy him with suggestions or requests for information. The story is told, and upon good authority, that when he was making his canvass for re-election some man in the audience arose and said: ‘Senator, why didn’t you answer the letter I wrote you?’ His reply was: ‘I have already answered too many fool letters that have been sent to me from Arkansas, and when I am re-elected I do not propose to waste any time answering every fool who concludes to write me a letter.’”

~ Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, from his memoirs, quoted in the *Washington Post*, September 30, 1925.

**Further Reading:** U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 64th Cong., 2nd sess. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1917.



## 67. Willard Saulsbury, Jr. (*Delaware*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1916–1919

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1913, to March 3, 1919

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware, April 17, 1861

*Died:* Wilmington, Delaware, February 20, 1927

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**Education:** Attended private schools and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; studied law.

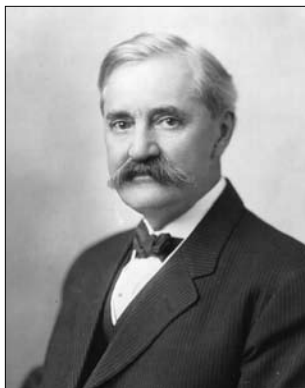
**Non-Senate Career:** Willard Saulsbury, Jr., was admitted to the bar in 1882 and practiced law in Wilmington, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. He was the president of the New Castle Bar Association and chairman of the board of censors. Saulsbury was successful in banking and sundry business organizations and was a director of the Equitable Trust Company and the Union National Bank. He was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1908 until 1920. Following his Senate service, he served on the advisory committee of the Conference on Limitation of Armaments in Washington, D.C., in 1921 and 1922, and was a member of the Pan American Conference in Santiago, Chile, in 1923.

**Committee Chair:** Coast and Insular Survey (1913–1919); Pacific Inlands and Puerto Rico (1917–1919)

**Observations:** “Senator Willard Saulsbury has been selected by the Democratic caucus to be President pro tempore of the Senate. . . . Senator Saulsbury for many years has been active in Democratic national and State politics, and is the member of the Democratic national committee from his State. He was one of the moving spirits of the Chicago headquarters, and in great degree party success in the Western States in the recent campaign was due to his initiative and executive ability. His term expires in two years, and as Delaware is generally a Republican State in national elections, his colleagues believed that the prestige of this office would be of political value in Delaware. In addition to this, Mr. Saulsbury is a skilled parliamentarian and one of the most popular members of the Senate, irrespective of political affiliations.”

~ *Washington Post*, December 14, 1916.

**Further Reading:** Franseth, Gregory S., L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, and Shiela Pardee. “The End of an Era in Delaware: The Practical Politics of Willard Saulsbury, Jr.” *Collections* 11 (2003): 1–27.



## 68. Albert Baird Cummins (*Iowa*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1919–1925

*Senate Service:* November 24, 1908, to July 30, 1926

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Near Carmichaels, Greene County, Pennsylvania, February 15, 1850

*Died:* Des Moines, Iowa, July 30, 1926

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**Education:** Attended the public schools and a preparatory academy; graduated from Waynesburg (Pennsylvania) College in 1869; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** Albert Cummins moved to Iowa in 1869 and briefly worked as a carpenter while clerking in the office of the recorder of Clayton County. He moved in 1871 to Allen County, Indiana, where he became deputy county surveyor and engaged in railroad building. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1875 and practiced law in Chicago. He returned in 1878 to Des Moines, Iowa, where he continued the practice of law. He became a member of the state house of representatives in 1888, serving until 1890, and was an unsuccessful candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1894 and 1900. He was a member of the Republican National Committee from 1896 to 1900 and served as governor of Iowa from 1902 until 1908, when he won election to the U.S. Senate.

**Committee Chair:** Civil Service and Retrenchment (1909–1913); Mississippi River and its Tributaries (1913–1919); Interstate Commerce (1919–1923); Judiciary (1923–1926)

**Observations:** “Suave, skillful, faultless in designing, in exposition faultless; never bitter, never once losing control; stocked with merciless information that crushed all attempts to befog the issues, Cummins

worked out a pattern of constructive statesmanship that amazed the close watchers of governmental affairs in Washington. They realized that here was a Senator with the abilities for leadership possessed by [Senator Nelson] Aldrich himself; with qualities of statesmanship that [Senator Willard] Saulsbury might have envied. And his familiarity with the topics he discussed, his ready mastery of data, and his smooth and masterly manners of presentation made Cummins one of the three really great figures of twentieth-century Congressional record. . . . There is much in the personal appearance of Cummins to lend him grace as a public character. He is something above average height, with kindling eyes, in which courtesy and gentility vie with intelligence for domination. His face is finely featured; his head is shapely, and it bears hair to lend it beauty. His frame is easy and graceful.”

~ Orlando Oscar Stealey, *130 Pen Pictures of Live Men* (Washington, D.C.: Publishers Printing Company [New York], 1910), 117.

**Further Reading:** Bray, Thomas James. *The Rebirth of Freedom*. Indianola, IA: Record Tribune Press, 1957; Margulies, Herbert F. “Senate Moderates in the League of Nations Battle: The Case of Albert B. Cummins.” *Annals of Iowa* 50 (Spring 1990): 333–58.





## 69. George Higgins Moses (*New Hampshire*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1925–1933

*Senate Service:* November 6, 1918, to March 3, 1933

*Party:* Republican

*Born:* Lubec, Washington County, Maine, February 9, 1869

*Died:* Concord, New Hampshire, December 20, 1944

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**Education:** Attended the public schools of Eastport, Maine, and Franklin, New Hampshire; graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1887 and from Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1890.

**Non-Senate Career:** George H. Moses worked as the private secretary to the governor of New Hampshire from 1889 until 1891. He began working as a reporter for the *Concord Evening Monitor* in 1890 and became a news editor and then chief editor, a position he held for 20 years. Moses was a member and secretary of the New Hampshire Forestry Commission from 1893 until 1907, and served as the United States minister to Greece and Montenegro from 1909 until 1912. When his tenure in the U.S. Senate ended in 1933, he engaged in literary work in Concord, New Hampshire.

**Committee Chair:** Printing (1919–1925); Post Office and Post Roads (1925–1929); Rules (1929–1933)

**Observations:** “My own boss, George Moses, a man of many contradictory traits, was in many respects the most brilliant man who ever represented New Hampshire, and he merits more than passing attention. . . . Moses was truly a master of words. Fresh out of college, he

began as a reporter for the *Concord Monitor*, and years later became its owner and publisher. With his natural aptitude of languages and his years of writing, he acquired a vocabulary more varied and complete than any person I have ever known. . . . He spoke as he wrote, with an imagination that added glitter to many dry subjects. . . . The world never saw, nor does history record, the human, compassionate side of George Moses. This was his fault. To the world he gave the impression of a cynical, sarcastic, brilliant individual with a biting tongue. In later years, when I was more mature, I came to realize that he enjoyed that role—indeed, that he almost reveled in it. His wit was sharp as a rapier and he could not resist uttering a witticism, no matter how cutting.”

~ Senator Norris Cotton, *In the Senate* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1978), 4–5.

**Further Reading:** Gallagher, Edward J. *George H. Moses: A Profile*. Laconia, NH: Citizen Publishing House, 1975; Symonds, Merrill A. “George Higgins Moses of New Hampshire—The Man and the Era.” Ph.D. dissertation. Clark University, 1955.



## 70. Key Pittman (*Nevada*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1933–1940

*Senate Service:* January 29, 1913, to November 10, 1940

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi, September 12, 1872

*Died:* Reno, Nevada, November 10, 1940

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**Education:** Educated by private tutors and at the Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tennessee; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** Key Pittman was admitted to the bar in 1892 and practiced law in Seattle, Washington. He joined in the gold rush to Klondike, Alaska, in 1897 and worked as a miner until 1901. He practiced law in Alaska and then moved to the silver boom-town of Tonopah, Nevada, in 1902 and continued to practice law. He was appointed to represent the state of Nevada at the St. Louis Exposition, the Lewis and Clark Exposition, and the irrigation congress. He was an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for election to the U.S. Senate in 1910, but won election in 1913.

**Committee Chair:** Territories (1913–1919); Industrial Expositions (1925–1927); Foreign Relations (1933–1940)

**Observations:** “Pittman maintains better order in the Senate than any other of its presiding officers. Ruling debate in the Senate is no child’s play. The officer in the chair must recognize every Senator immediately. He must have parliamentary rules at his finger tips. He must be quick. He can make no mistakes. Pittman fulfills all of these requirements.”

~ Columnist Drew Pearson, 1937, in Betty Glad, *Key Pittman: The Tragedy of a Senate Insider* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986), 205–6.

**Further Reading:** Israel, Fred. *Nevada’s Key Pittman*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963.



## 71. William Henry King (*Utah*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1940–1941

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1917, to January 3, 1941

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Fillmore, Millard County, Utah, June 3, 1863

*Died:* Salt Lake City, Utah, November 27, 1949

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**Education:** Attended the public schools, Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and the University of Utah at Salt Lake City; graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

**Non-Senate Career:** Between 1880 and 1883, William H. King was a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Great Britain. He was elected to various offices in the city of Fillmore and in Millard County, Utah, and was a member of the territorial legislature. He was admitted to the bar in 1890 and practiced law in Utah and in Washington, D.C. King was a member of the territorial council in 1891, serving as its president. He then became an associate justice of the Utah supreme court, serving from 1894 until 1896. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from March 4, 1897, until March 3, 1899, and from April 2, 1900, until March 3, 1901. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the House in 1900 and 1902. Following his U.S. Senate service, he practiced law in Washington, D.C., until April 1947, when he returned to Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Committee Chair:** Expenditures in the Post Office Department (1917–1919); District of Columbia (1933–1941)

**Observations:** “As an ardent Jeffersonian Democrat all his life, Senator King nevertheless took an independent stand in considering legislation. Often he voted against the leaders of his party in order to follow his own convictions. Partly for that reason his four terms in the Senate did not give him a position of outstanding leadership in the councils of his party. . . . His voice often ran through the Senate in opposition to centralization of power in the Federal Government. As a critic, he was a formidable influence, and if his course sometimes seemed to be erratic, it nevertheless reflected a sincerity of convictions—the basis on which all representative government must rest.”

~ *Washington Post* editorial, November 29, 1949.

**Further Reading:** Hauptman, Laurence M. “Utah Anti-Imperialist: Senator William H. King and Haiti, 1921–1934.” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 41 (Spring 1973): 116–27; Libby, Justin H. “Senators King and Thomas and the Continuing War with Japan.” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 42 (Fall 1974): 370–80.



## 72. Byron Patton (Pat) Harrison (*Mississippi*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1941

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1919, to June 22, 1941

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Crystal Springs, Copiah County, Mississippi, August 29, 1881

*Died:* Washington, D.C., June 22, 1941

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**Education:** Attended the public schools; briefly attended the University of Mississippi and the University of Louisiana at Baton Rouge; studied law.

**Non-Senate Career:** Pat Harrison taught school at Leakesville, Mississippi, before being admitted to the bar in 1902. He began practicing law in Leakesville and became district attorney for the second district of Mississippi in 1906, serving until 1910, when he resigned. He moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, in 1908 and represented Gulfport in the U.S. House of Representatives from March 4, 1911, until March 4, 1919, when he began his tenure in the U.S. Senate.

**Committee Chair:** Finance (1933–1941)

**Observations:** “He was always willing to play the role of ‘pinch hitter’ when legislation became ensnarled. He liked the baseball term, for it reminded him of his early days when he played small league baseball on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. . . . He built a reputation as one of the ablest give-and-take debaters. When the Republicans were in power he was famous for his satirical attacks on that party. Republicans dubbed him the ‘Democratic Gadfly.’ Yet his irony in debate never left scars and he had many friends among the Republicans. . . . His work as floor leader for a measure was always interesting to watch. He did little speech-making. Most of the time he traded, pacified, flattered. Reporters liked to watch the tall, stooped Harrison ambling about on the floor or heading for the Senate cloakroom to nurse along a doubtful member—ever on the move, buttonholing one Senator, getting reports from another.”

~ *Washington Post*, June 23, 1941.

**Further Reading:** Coker, William S., “Pat Harrison—Strategy for Victory.” *Journal of Mississippi History* 28 (November 1966): 267–85; Swain, Martha H. *Pat Harrison: The New Deal Years*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1978.



## 73. Carter Glass (*Virginia*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1941–1945

*Senate Service:* February 2, 1920, to May 28, 1946

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia, January 4, 1858

*Died:* Washington, D.C., May 28, 1946

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**Education:** Attended private and public schools.

**Non-Senate Career:** Carter Glass was a newspaper reporter, editor, and owner. In 1899, he became a member of the Virginia state senate, where he served until 1903. Glass was also a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1901. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served from November 4, 1902, until December 16, 1918. In the House, he was chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency from 1913 until 1918. He resigned his House seat to serve as secretary of the treasury under President Wilson. Glass was a member of the Democratic National Committee between 1916 and 1928.

**Committee Chair:** Expenditures in the Interior Department (1919–1921); Appropriations (1933–1946)

**Observations:** “Among the keenest financial minds to hold both positions [as president pro tempore and chairman of the Appropriations Committee] was Carter Glass of Virginia. Already famous when he

came to the Senate in 1920 as the father of the Federal Reserve System and President Wilson’s Secretary of the Treasury, the little Senator from Virginia more than made up for his size by his fighting nature. Many have compared him with the bantam cocks he liked to watch in combat. Carter Glass would orate from the center aisle, his voice had a rasping tremor, and his sharp face always twisted around to let the words come out of one corner of his mouth. Woodrow Wilson, marveling at Glass’s accomplishments once remarked, “Think of what Carter could do if he talked out of both sides of his mouth!”

~ Richard Langham Reidel, *Halls of the Mighty: My 47 Years at the Senate* (Washington, D.C.: R. B. Luce, 1969), 209–10.

**Further Reading:** Koeniger, Alfred C. “‘Unreconstructed Rebel’: The Political Thought and Senate Career of Carter Glass, 1929–1936.” Ph.D. dissertation, Vanderbilt University, 1980; Lyle, John O. “The United States Senate Career of Carter Glass, 1920–1933.” Ph.D. dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1974.



## 74. Kenneth Douglas McKellar (*Tennessee*)

*President Pro Tempore:* 1945–1947, 1949–1953

*Senate Service:* March 4, 1917, to January 3, 1953

*Party:* Democrat

*Born:* Richmond, Dallas County, Alabama, January 29, 1869

*Died:* Memphis, Tennessee, October 25, 1957

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**Education:** Received private instruction from his parents and his sister; graduated from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1891 and from its law department in 1892.

**Non-Senate Career:** Kenneth McKellar moved to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1892 and was admitted to the bar that same year. He practiced law in Memphis and was a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket in 1904. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1911 and served from December 4, 1911, to March 4, 1917.

**Committee Chair:** Civil Service and Retrenchment (1917–1919); Post Office and Post Roads (1933–1947); Appropriations (1945–1953)

**Observations:** “[Columnist] Drew Pearson tangled with McKellar today. . . . Pearson referred to the Senator’s temper, retelling the old tale about the time he drew a knife on a fellow Senator and had to be virtually disarmed before he calmed down; he then went on into his patronage, his power as acting chairman of Appropriations, his feud with TVA. Old Mack put on a pow’ful good show in reply. He wanted to ask his fellow Senators—he wanted to tell them—if any of the statements of this low-down, lying, contemptible scoundrel were true. If any Senator ever heard of him drawing a knife on anybody, he wanted

him to get up and tell him about it. . . . If any Senator ever heard of him using Appropriations to kill off anybody’s pet project as a means of retaliation, he wanted him to get up and tell him about it. And as for patronage! Why! That was the most contemptible, sneaking, miserable, low-down lie of all the lies by this egregious ass. He wanted his fellow Senators to tell him—he challenged any Senator—he would let them pass the verdict on him as to whether he was any of the things this sneaking skunk had said. His voice roared one moment and sank to a grimly amused conversational tone the next. His right arm flailed the air and his forelock fell across his sleepy eye. He did not get a case of the weepy sniffles, as he is sometimes wont to do, but aside from that he put on quite a complete exhibit of the McKellar repertoire. His fellow Senators, who regard him with a combination of affection, fear, and amusement, sat in amused or impassive silence and in effect assented to all his statements by so doing.”

~ Allen Drury, *A Senate Journal* (New York, Da Capo Press, 1972), 148.

**Further Reading:** McKellar, Kenneth. *Tennessee Senators As Seen By One of Their Successors*. Kingsport, Tenn.: Southern Publishers, 1942; Pope, Robert Dean. “Senatorial Baron: The Long Political Career of Kenneth C. McKellar.” Ph.D. dissertation, Yale University, 1975.