



**"COTTON ED" RELAXES AFTER THE CAMPAIGN.**  
 Senator Ellison D. Smith, dean of the Senate Democrats, winner in the South Carolina primary for renomination to the Senate, goes back to his cotton plantation near Lynchburg.  
 (Times Wide World Photos)

# "Cotton Ed" Smith Dies

State Nov-18 '44

**Funeral Sunday  
 For Veteran  
 U.S. Senator**

**His Last Pose**



**AT END OF LAST CAMPAIGN**—The above photograph of United States Senator E. D. Smith was snapped when he spoke at the Township auditorium in Columbia last summer at his final appearance as a candidate for the United States senate to succeed himself. In the primary a few weeks later, Senator Smith was defeated by Governor Olin D. Johnston "Cotton Ed," as he was popularly known, was elected to the senate in 1908 and served continuously since for the longest unbroken tenure in the upper house of congress.

Lynchburg, Nov. 17—(AP)—Senator Ellison D. Smith ("Cotton Ed"), dean of the senate and bitter critic of the New Deal, died suddenly today at his home near this small South Carolina town near which he was born 80 years ago.

Death was caused by coronary thrombosis. His son, Farley, said the senator had seemed in good health and had eaten breakfast about an hour before he died while alone in his room at 10:15 a. m. He had planned to return to Washington next week to resume his duties.

Smith established a record for length of senate service when on August 4 he passed the 35 years and five months mark held by the late Senator William B. Allison of Iowa. He tried for a seventh term but was defeated in the Democratic primary last summer by Governor Olin D. Johnston.

For the greater part of his long service the chunky, fiery-talking South Carolina planter was among the most regular of regular party Democrats. But he began to break away from regularity after Roosevelt's first term, because of his dislike for various New Deal policies, and finally he became one of the most vociferous of anti-Rooseveltians and anti-Dealers.

He won his nickname, Cotton Ed—a cognomen he loved, by campaigning on a platform promise of helping the cotton farmers of the South—in early years he often rode into a town for a political speech astride of a cotton bale in a mule-drawn wagon—and by unceasing efforts to carry out his promise by legislation.

The funeral will be held Sunday at 3:30 p. m. at the home, Tanglewood. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Luke's Methodist church near here.

Smith let it be known that he voted for Mr. Roosevelt in 1932 and 1936 but not afterward. Last summer he called a meeting of farmers in Washington and promoted an organization to oppose the fourth term.

He was author of the cotton futures law and numerous other measures designed to aid agriculture.

He sponsored the act under which the huge government plant at Muscle Shoals was established a quarter of a century ago, an enterprise that the Roosevelt administration developed into the Tennessee Valley authority. He also fathered laws to cut down immigration.

In his campaigns he relied strongly upon three planks, white supremacy, a tariff for revenue only and State's Rights. He caused wide comment when he walked out of the Democratic national convention at Philadelphia in 1936 because a Negro minister was asked to pray, and he let it be known he did not like the presence of Negro delegates.

"There's no place in the Democratic party for a Negro," he declared.

Surviving are his widow; two daughters, Mrs. Smith Pierce of Washington and Mrs. Alfred Lawton of Lynchburg, and two sons, Ellison of Washington and Farley of Lynchburg.

Smith once said that if he had not been so lazy he could have been as great a man as John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's patron saint.

Despite his confessed laziness, however, Smith got himself elected to the senate in 1908 and remained there until his death.

Not even the persuasive voice of President Roosevelt could blast him out. A "purge" target in 1938, Smith put on the campaign of his life, and Governor Olin D. Johnston's Roosevelt-backed candidacy struck a snag. But Johnston defeated the veteran this year in the Democratic primary.

Smith supported his successful opponent in the general election, declaring he believed it "the square thing to do." Prior to the presidential race he lent his influence to the organization of a farmers' group opposed to the New Deal.

He said just before the election that he would vote for Southern Democratic presidential electors who were pledged to vote for Senator Byrd (D-Va) of Virginia for President.

Smith's senatorial career was wrapped up in cotton, which gave him his nickname. He was always

pursuing some legislation affecting cotton. He was author of the cotton standards act; advocate of the government cotton loan, and the state's strongest mourner when the price of staple hit the rocks.

The senator loved to pose for the news photographers. His walrus mustache and jowls made him a sought-after subject. He could screw up his face to meet any occasion or demand.

When King George and Queen Elizabeth visited Washington in 1939, Smith made the most of the event. He greeted the comely queen as "Howdy, Majesty" at the garden party at the British embassy, slapped King George on the back and informed him that he (Smith) was still living on land his ancestors received years ago as a grant from King George II.

During the Wilson administration when the Democrats were in power in the senate, Smith was chairman of the interstate commerce committee. Under Roosevelt, he served as chairman of the senate agriculture committee which handled the New Deal farm legislation.

He opposed many of the New Deal proposals, including the supreme court reorganization plan, and after the attempt to purge him from the senate, Smith observed he was in the "dog house."

"But I can still bark," he added.