

## RICHARDS NOT EYEING RACE FOR S. C. GOVERNOR

Washington — Rep. James P. Richards (D-SC) says he has no plans to run for governor of South Carolina or for the U. S. Senate after his retirement from Congress next year.

But Richards said, "Something might change my mind, but I can't see it now." Richards, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, announced Wednesday his plans to retire from the House next year. He said he is retiring "because I never wanted to stay until I am old."

Richards, 61, will have completed 34 years in politics when he leaves Congress, 24 as a member of the House and 10 in South Carolina politics.

Richards, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee since 1935, said, "My health is fine and I'm not mad at anybody on my committee or in Congress. I just want to go back to South Carolina. I've always tried to keep my roots down there. Coming here was a duty and being in Congress is the greatest schooling I've had and the greatest inspiration.

"Give me a can of worms and a crooked pole and let me sit on

the side of the creek and put my feet in the mud for real fun," Richards said. "I don't intend to put my feet on the bannisters and just bay at the moon. I'll fish a little and hunt a little, see as much baseball as I can and practice a little law with my son, Richard Richards. I've talked this over with my wife (the former Katherine Hawthorne Wylie of Lancaster) for several years and with friends since 1952. We want to go back home."

Of the Geneva disagreement over the unification of Germany, Richards said, "It is most necessary for the U. S. to exhibit firmness. If you analyze the spirit of Geneva, you will find the Communists have abandoned none of their basic positions, most important of which is the destruction of the free world.

"We should keep up spirit to continue negotiations, show a definite willingness for negotiations, but most of all the United States must be firm," Richards said.

Middle East Post

## S. C. Congressmen Praise Appointment of Richards

By The State's Washington Correspondent

Washington — The Appointment of former Fifth District Rep. James P. Richards to chart a course for the United States through the turbulent waters of the Middle East drew high praise from members of the South Carolina Congressional delegation, on which Richards served from 1933 until his resignation last year.

Sen. Olin D. Johnston described as "gratifying" the appointment of "a South Carolinian of such great experience and ability in Foreign Affairs" to the post.

"I am sure the people of South Carolina are very proud of him," Johnston said. "I hope that his

wisdom and judgment will be felt in our future relations in this and other parts of the world."

Sen. Strom Thurmond also praised President Eisenhower's choice of Richards as his personal advisor on the Middle East.

"It is an excellent appointment which I think will help to solidify bi-partisan foreign policy," Thurmond said. "He is the best-qualified man I know for this position."

Congressman Robert W.

Hemphill, who succeeded Richards as representative of the Fifth District in Congress, said the news of Mr. Richards' appointment was "wonderful."

"Every South Carolinian

ought to be proud of him and every citizen of this nation can look with assurance, comfort and confidence to his leadership in this critical eastern area," Hemphill commented. "Everybody I have talked to in the Congress feels the same way."

Richards was described by Fourth District Rep. Robert Ashmore as "one of the finest men in the nation to represent this country in foreign affairs."

"I am delighted to see the President has selected him," Mr. Ashmore continued. "I think Dick Richards is one of the most capable and qualified men who has been in Congress in many years. He is a great South Carolinian. I have recently made the statement several times that he should be made

ambassador to one of the larger countries, and I'm sure that in this position he will do an outstanding job."

Sixth District Rep. John L. McMillan said he didn't think President Eisenhower could have picked a better man for the job.

"I have the highest respect for his ability and his integrity,"

Mr. McMillan said.

Rep. John J. Riley of the Second District echoed Congressman McMillan's sentiments.

"I'm very happy he's using Dick's experience and talents, because I know they're needed," Riley said. "Most members I've heard comment on the assignment are gratified that the President chose Dick, because they have a lot of confidence in him. I'm glad he acquiesced and accepted the appointment, because we need someone of his ability and diplomacy."

Congressmen L. Mendel Rivers of the First District and W. J. Bryan Dorn of the Third District were out of town, and not available for comment.

The Chester (S. C.) News, November 10, 1955

THE CHESTER NEWS

January 17, 1957

## Richards' Statement

Congressman Richards, who has built for himself quite a name as chairman of the house committee on foreign affairs, has given ample notice that he will not seek to succeed himself as representative from the Fifth district. We carried a statement from him yesterday that he would not seek re-election in 1956.

It was rumored two years ago that Mr. Richards was going to retire from the house, but when time came to file for nomination for another term he paid his fee and easily won in the primary, and, of course, in the general election. When the rumor factory got busy again, this time that he would not run in 1956 for the Fifth district seat, many discounted the likelihood of his withdrawing, but his positive announcement shows that the rumor had foundation. He has served his district, his state and the country as a whole well, and he will be missed in the house, especially in the handling of international matters.

The question now arises as to whether Mr. Richards is quitting politics outright, or may make a bid for the senate next

summer. He has been mentioned as a candidate against Senator Johnston. He said nothing in his statement to indicate he has an ambition to move to the other end of the capitol, but careful reading of his statement shows he didn't close the door to that possibility. The word "now"—"I do not intend now to run for any office next summer"—may be significant.

It has been generally conceded that Senator Johnston will have opposition next year, but who that candidate will be has the politicians guessing. What Mr. Richards does, or says, in this regard will be watched with the greatest interest.

Mr. Richards, dean of the South Carolina delegation, entered congress in 1933. He succeeded W. F. Stevenson of Cheraw. The district has had only three representatives in this century, save for an interim service by the late Paul G. McCorkle of Chester. For years the seat was held by the late D. E. Finley of York, who died in office.