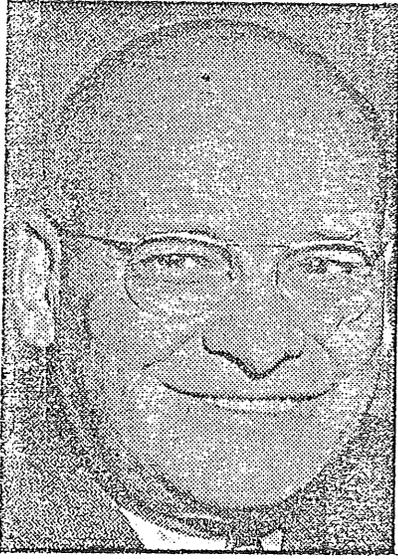


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Two longtime powers in state Legislature die



Dunn in 1966

Roy Dunn

Roy Dunn, a 40-year Minnesota legislator who for a time was one of the state's most powerful politicians, died Tuesday at a nursing home in St. Paul. He was 99.

When he retired from the House of Representatives in 1966, a colleague said that during Dunn's heyday as majority leader he "practically held court in the House. His word was law. He'd even get up almost every day on the House floor and read out his fellow conservatives (Republicans) over in the Senate."

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Dunn could get away with that approach because his affable personality made him easy to like and because he was the state's "Mr. Republican," serving as the party's national committeeman for 16 years.

S.T.
Dunn was born in a log house in 1886 on his parents' farm in Otter Tail County, near Pelican Rapids. He lived there most of his life, expanding the farm and building a resort.

He was elected to the House in 1924 and was reelected 19 times, although voters did reject him once when he ran for the State Senate. He rapidly became a political force; by the mid-1930s he was head of the influential rules committee in the House and national committeeman. The latter post gave him control over the party's purse strings and a significant say about which candidates would, or wouldn't, get the party's backing.

When he was majority leader, his critics sometimes called him a "dictator who tried to operate the Legislature as a private club" and his liberal opponents considered him an ultraconservative. But the Democrats who fought with him over issues also respected Dunn and sought his advice and assistance once they gained control of the House.

Said DFLer Fred Cina before he succeeded Dunn as majority leader: "Roy taught me one thing — always keep your word. It was the soundest advice I ever received as majority leader."

Dunn was a key architect in the passage of the taconite amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, which opened the way to the development of the taconite industry on the Iron Range in the 1960s.

He is survived, by his wife, Anna; daughter, Virginia Neuenschwander; a sister and seven grandchildren. Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at First Congregational Church in Pelican Rapids.