

Guided Notes (Teacher)

Pettigrew, Moody, Gamble, Pickler, Kyle, and Kittridge. All were South Dakotans who gave the state a national voice...in Washington, D. C....serving in the United States **Senate** or **House of Representatives**.

The Potomac is the river that borders Washington, D. C., and Potomac Fever is a term used jokingly to say someone is gripped by a disease-like desire...to get elected... and serve in **Washington**. Like all states, South Dakota sends two Senators to the national capital.

How many House of Representatives members go to Washington depends on a state's population. Early in its history South Dakota sent two representatives, and then three after the population grew in the early 1900s. Our number of representatives dropped back to two after the 1930 census, and to just **one** after the 1980 census.

South Dakota gained statehood in 1889. If those in Washington figured the new state might sit respectfully quiet for a while...they didn't count on **Richard Pettigrew**, one of South Dakota's first two Senators—and possibly its most controversial ever. Pettigrew was well respected as a leader in South Dakota's statehood movement. A Sioux Falls businessman...once owner of the Queen Bee Mill there...

In 1900, South Dakota's legislature decided it wanted a voice other than Pettigrew's in Washington. Peter Norbeck, elected to the Senate in 1920, was the voice of a Progressive Republican. As a Senator, Norbeck got money in Washington so South Dakotans could blast, drill, and chisel to create an important American symbol: **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**.

In the 1920s Mary's daughter, Gladys, became a voice for the League of Women Voters. She traveled South Dakota and other states urging women to not only vote, but to run for office. Gladys took her own advice and was the first woman in our state legislature, and the first to serve as South Dakota **Secretary of State**. In 1938, following Peter Norbeck's death, Gladys Pyle was elected to serve two months as U. S. Senator, completing Norbeck's term.

Something else Case wrote were **bills** the Senate voted into **law**...authorizing projects back home. He referred to himself as “a water and roads Senator” ...South Dakotans who drive Interstate 29 north of Sioux Falls toward Brookings, Watertown, and Fargo should thank Francis Case. As originally planned in the 1950s, I-29 didn't extend past Sioux Falls. Case believed it should.

South Dakota's Washington delegation of the 1960s attracted national notice for a couple of reasons. Representative Ben Reifel was the first **American Indian** South Dakotans elected to office in Washington, and in the '60s, he was the only **American Indian** from anywhere to serve in the House or Senate... In the House of

Representatives, Reifel urged combining reservation and off-reservation schools, so all children could learn together.

Democrat McGovern thought the military build-up wasted money that could be spent improving life in the United States and around the world. He believed the national government and farmers should be partners in ending world hunger. McGovern especially opposed a war against communists in Vietnam. Democrats nominated McGovern for President in 1972, but he lost to **Richard Nixon**.

However they start, political careers in Washington often end suddenly. For example, after winning previous elections by big margins, Senators **McGovern**, **Pressler**, and **Daschle** lost their final campaigns. South Dakotans decided they wanted new voices. That's okay. As George McGovern said after his defeat, South Dakotans didn't owe him a lifetime job. As history proves, there are always men and women waiting their turns to serve as Washington voices.