



There's a

THE bulky figure of House Speaker J. D. McCarty, '39, has emerged from the current session of the Oklahoma legislature as the Capitol's take-charge man—the most influential legislator the House has produced in many years. Faced with a stack of immediate problems and few workable solutions, the 28th session of the legislature has been a study in arrested motion with only a handful of the more active members striving to get things going. Leader of this group has been Speaker McCarty, a hard-driving politician with a sound grasp of legislative organization and a reservoir of energy to back him up. An Oklahoma City insurance man during the off-season, McCarty plows through a staggering daily work load—as shown by the photographs on the following pages. Outwardly, at least, his main duty is to preside over the House, but there is much more to being the Speaker. McCarty must whip the varied interests and desires of 121 representatives into a cohesive program by an endless procession of conferences—with other representatives, with Senate leaders, with the Governor, with his own constituents, with special interest groups. He must work for compromises; he must know when to stand fast and when to give in, when to act and when to wait—if he is to get his program through. While the politician is burdened by the necessity of being right every time, McCarty prefers to compare the lawmaker to the baseball player. “Mickey Mantle doesn't hit a home run every time,” he explains. “If I'm 70 per cent correct in my voting on bills and the way I handle my political obligations, that's a pretty good average. I realize I might not do that well. You can't be right every time—but if you're striving to be right, you can learn to live with your mistakes.”



Above. Representative J. D. McCarty checks his crowded schedule with two members of his office staff before beginning his legislative day. *Left.* Speaker McCarty strikes a typical pose on the rostrum as he calls to order another session of the State House of Representatives.

Speaker in the House

Photos by NED HOCKMAN, '49ed



While House debate continues, Speaker McCarthy holds quick conference with Floor Leader Leland Wolf (left) and Representative Jim Bullard.



During debate McCarthy, shown here with Representatives Briscoe and Allard, often moves among the legislators.



Shoes off and feet up is the Speaker's favorite way of getting comfortable during lengthy legislative debate.

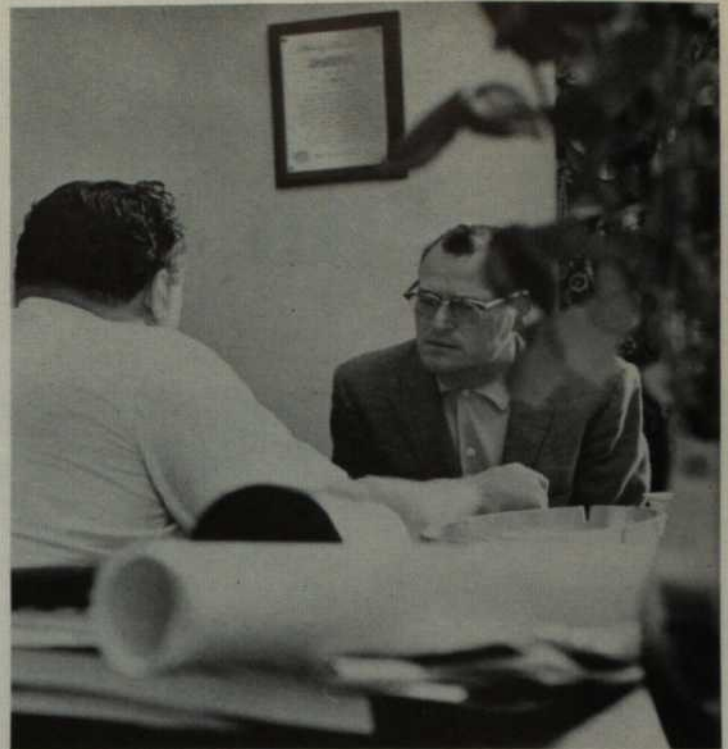


At the conclusion of a House committee hearing, Speaker McCarthy stops to talk with a group of state businessmen. (photos continue)

THERE'S A SPEAKER IN THE HOUSE
continued



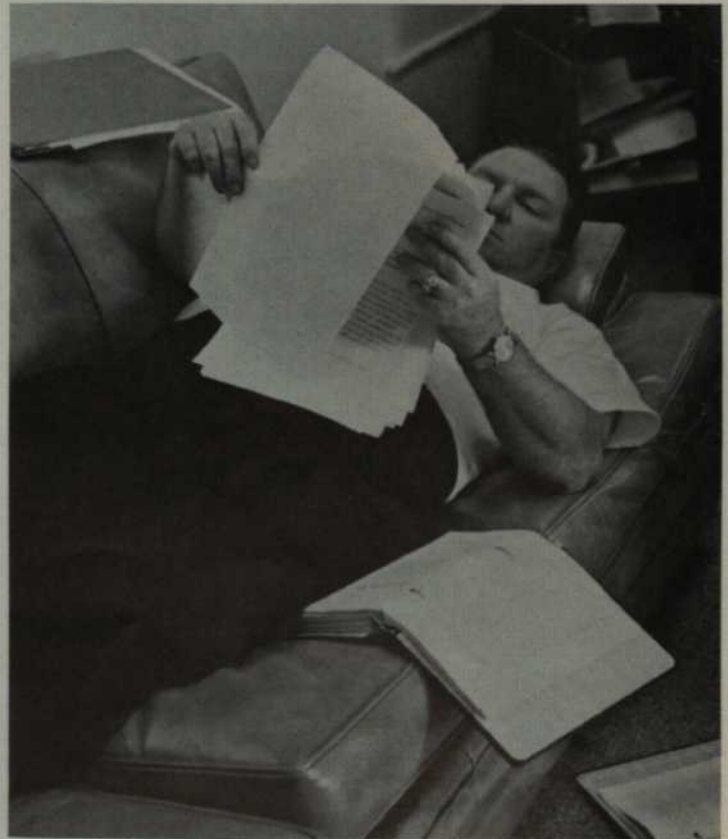
Pushing his program through the legislature is a full-time job for McCarty, conferring (left) with Senate Leader Collins and (right) with a fellow representative on the way to a legislative luncheon.



In one of the many office conferences he holds during the day, McCarty discusses a pending House measure with Representative Jim Burnham.



Conferences with Gov. Howard Edmondson are a regular feature of Speaker McCarty's work day.



A long day is far from over for Speaker McCarty as he settles down on the office couch to study the endless stack of proposed legislation.



McCarty drops in on a House committee hearing on liquor violations.