



Francis H. Case

Dakota Images

Francis Highbee Case was born in Everly, Iowa, on 9 December 1896. When he was thirteen, his family moved to Meade County, South Dakota. He received his B.A. from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1918 and his M.A. from Northwestern University in 1920. He returned to South Dakota in 1922 and became the editor of the *Rapid City Journal*. In 1925 he became the editor and publisher of the *Hot Springs Star* and *Times Herald*. He also edited and published the *Custer Chronicle*. He married Myrle Graves in 1926.

Case entered politics in 1936 when he was elected congressman for the Second District on the Republican ticket. After serving seven terms in the House, he was elected to the Senate in 1950 and reelected in 1956. Politically Case was conservative. He denounced deficit spending and successfully incorporated a pay-as-you-go policy in the federal highway system. While opposed to most welfare programs, he recognized the government's responsibility to the elderly and supported social security programs.

For Case, the promotion of his state took high priority. He was influential in gaining publicity for the Black Hills when he persuaded President Coolidge to use the hills as his summer White House in 1928. His attempt to locate the United Nations in the hills also netted the state favorable notice. He was successful in obtaining federally funded public works projects such as Randall, Oahe, Big Bend reservoirs, and Lewis and Clark Lake. He was a pioneer in the area of water resources and was recognized nationally as a promoter of weather modification.

Case died of a heart attack on 22 June 1962, during his second term in the Senate. Had he lived, he would have ran against George McGovern in the election that year.

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