

TO: Jim Pehler

FROM: Barry Tilley

SUBJECT: Lawrence M. Hall

DATE: April 16, 1973

Lawrence M. Hall was born May 20, 1908, and attended St. John's University and the Georgetown Law School.

He was elected to the House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1934. In 1939, at age 30, he caucused with the conservatives and became the youngest House Speaker in the state's history. He served five terms as speaker, longer than any other man.

He left the Legislature in 1949, and became a lobbyist and legal counsel for the Minnesota Wine and Spirits Institute, which represents the state's large liquor wholesalers. He was considered one of the most influential lobbyists at the Legislature. He was a staunch defender of the brand monopoly enjoyed by the state's liquor wholesalers.

He was named chairman of the Metropolitan Airport Commission in 1953 by Republican Governor C. Elmer Anderson, and was reappointed to the post through the years by both Republican and DFL governors.

In the late 1960's, Hall led the drive to establish a second major Twin Cities airport near Ham Lake in Anoka County. But the effort faltered in conflicts with Northwestern Airlines and the Metropolitan Council and is still unresolved. Mr. Hall said in 1970 he had thought of retiring from the commission but he wanted to stay until the airport question was settled.

He resigned from MAC unexpectedly in August, 1972, after the onset of his illness.

Lawrence Hall, a resident of St. Cloud, died on February 28, 1973, at 64 years of age. He left as survivors his wife, four children, and seven brothers and sisters.

Read by Rep. Jim Pehler

*from materials for a
House memorial service
held 4-19-1973*