

Starace Becomes a Star Ace For Boro's New Congressman

TROUBLE SHOOTER—Bay Ridge lawyer Armand J. Starace mans his post at the telephone to line up appointments for his boss, Representative John H. Ray of the Narrows-straddling Congressional 15th District. Starace is the local representative of the Congressman whose home base is Staten Island.



Eagle Staff Photo

By LESLIE HANSCOM

And the land that was on the right hand of the waters became one with the land that was on the left hand of the waters.

And Bay Ridge had a Congressman based in Staten Island.

But lo, geography remained geography and the new Congressman was stuck with a problem which only the Power that first divided the waters has ever faced successfully.

The problem was how to be in two places at once.

Luckily it didn't take the omniscience of the Creator to find a solution. The nation's only water-borne Congressman selected an alter ego to stand in for him in Bay Ridge.

This Representative's representative is a youthful lawyer named Armand J. Starace who courageously announces that he can be reached daily in his offices at 421 Bay Ridge Parkway.

As though this were not ask-

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ing for trouble enough, he is also available Monday and Wednesday evenings in the local G. O. P. clubhouse at 514 86th St.

To Starace, however, the avalanches of requests, of gripes and of hard luck stories which are heaped into the ears of a Congressman do not really constitute trouble. He brings much zest to the job.

He even believes that 100 percent—or near it—of the earbenders have a legitimate reason to seek official help.

When a supplicant checks in at the lawyer's Bay Ridge offices, Starace records his name and problem on the tidy form with which Representative John H. Ray has provided him, and if the case warrants it, makes an appointment for a personal interview with Ray.

The Congressman, whose week is spent in Washington—he's a freshman at the job—arrives in New York on weekends to hold office hours on alternate Saturday afternoons in Staten Island and in Bay Ridge.

Today is Brooklyn's turn and Representative Ray was slated to be on tap in person at the 86th St. clubhouse.

Late Friday afternoons the member from the new across-the-Narrows 15th Congressional District hops a bus in Washington and is transported as far as Elizabeth, N. J., where he picks up his car and drives the rest of the way.

Appointment List Waiting

By the time he sets up shop in the Bay Ridge clubhouse, his lieutenant has prepared a full list of appointments for him. The applications which should have been directed elsewhere have been weeded out and Starace has himself mended those matters that do not need the personal attention of his boss.

Personal contact with his constituents, however, is something Representative Ray actively seeks, and Starace, as in most matters, is quick to

respect his judgment. The younger man has only good things to say of the one from whom he takes orders.

"He never raises his voice," Starace said of the Congressman. "You'd never take him for a politician. But he takes to politics all right. You should have heard him campaigning on street corners last Fall."

"And the other night," his go-between added admiringly, "when we had our affair at the Towers, he was shaking hands with the best of them."

The 30-year-old Starace, who has "a natural nose for rooting out facts and making investigations," is now working to establish the Spanish War pension rights of an 89-year-old veteran whose discharge is believed to have sunk with the S. S. Titanic.

Settled by Bench Confab

Veterans affairs and immigration problems furnish the majority of the snarls which a Congressman is asked to straighten out.

Starace's introduction to the field began last Christmas Eve with a conversation on a bench in the Staten Island ferry terminal. Ray summoned him to discuss the new plan and the two met accidentally in the terminal. It was all settled then and there.

As a result, the attorney now oscillates between these two phone numbers: SHore Road 8-8889, his office, and BEachview 8-4229, the clubhouse.

His one petition to the petitioners: Phone first for an appointment.

37th Annual Dinner of Women's Hospital

The 37th annual dinner of Brooklyn Women's Hospital, 1395 Eastern Parkway, will be given in honor of Benjamin D. Jaffe tomorrow, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Mr. Jaffe is a member of the hospital's board of directors, and chairman of the construction committee.