

## Clyde H. Tavenner

(4 Feb 1882 – 6 Feb 1942)

---

*The Evening Star, February 7, 1942, p. A10*

### **Clyde Tavenner Dies; Writer and Former Representative Funeral to Be Monday, With Burial in Congressional Cemetery**



Columbia Historical Society Collection  
Photograph by the Blahut Studio, Rock Island, Illinois

Clyde H. Tavenner, writer and former member of Congress from Illinois, died yesterday at a local hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Tavenner was made director of publicity for the Democratic National Committee in the campaign of 1910, a position which he held again in 1912. In 1913 he was elected to the House of Representatives from the 14th district of Illinois, and served as a member of the 63d and 64th Congresses.

#### *Opposed World War Entry*

He was one of the leaders in the House against the entrance of the country into the First World War. In 1916 he made two speeches in Congress, "The World-Wide War Trust" and "The Navy League Unmasked," for the distribution of which Henry Ford contributed half a million dollars.

Mr. Tavenner was born at Cordova, Ill., February 4, 1882. At an early age he began writing for a country newspaper, later becoming a writer for city dailies. In 1908 he began to write a daily signed article and for 10 years syndicated a daily Washington letter to 100 daily papers and a weekly letter to 2,600 weeklies. In 1909 he visited England, France, Germany and Italy, writing series of articles on their tariff systems.

#### *Urged Phillipine Independence*

In 1919 he visited Siberia, Japan and the Phillipine Islands, and wrote series of articles advocating Phillipine independence. From 1919 to 1923 Mr. Tavenner was director of the Phillipine Press bureau in this country. In 1923 he resigned to found the magazine, the Phillipine Republic, published in Washington, and served as editor until 1931.

In 1931 and 1932 he went abroad again, visiting Europe, China and India. He is survived by his widow a son, Clyde H. Tavenner of Washington, and two daughters, Mrs. Homer G. Smith of Arlington, Va., and Mrs. Coleman Rosenberger of Washington.

He made his home here at 33 Girard street N.E. Funeral services will be held on Monday, with burial in Congressional Cemetery.

*Chicago Daily Tribune, February 8, 1942, p. 8*

### **Clyde Tavenner, Ex-Congressman And Writer, Dies** Washington, D.C., Feb. 7

Clyde H. Tavenner, 60 years old, writer and former Illinois member of congress, died yesterday at a Washington hospital.

Born at Cordova, Ill, February 4, 1882, Tavenner served in the 63d and 64th congresses from Illinois' 14th district. He had been publicity director for the Democratic National committee in 1910 and 1912 when elected a member of the house in 1913.

Tavenner's writing career began on a country newspaper while he was a young man. Later he wrote for city dailies, in 1908 becoming the author of a daily signed article. For a decade he syndicated a daily

Washington letter to 100 papers and a weekly letter to 2,600. An advocate of Philippine independence, he was director of the Philippine press bureau in this country from 1919 to 1923. He resigned in 1923 to found the magazine, *The Philippine Republic*, a Washington publication, and served as editor until 1931.

Funeral services will be held Monday with interment in Congressional Cemetery. Tavenner is survived by his widow and two daughters.

*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*

A Representative from Illinois, born in Cordova, Rock Island County, Ill., February 4, 1882. He attended the common schools; learned the printer's trade; engaged as editorial writer; went abroad in 1909, and wrote on the tariff systems of the several European countries visited; director of publicity for the Democratic National Congressional Committee in 1910 and 1912; elected as a Democrat to the 63rd and 64th Congresses (March 4, 1913-March 3, 1917); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1916 to the 65th Congress; visited Russia, Japan, and the Philippine Islands in 1919, and on his return wrote a series of articles on the question of Philippine independence; founded a monthly magazine, the *Philippine Republic*, in Washington D.C. in 1923, and also engaged in the publishing business; visited Europe, the Near East, and the Far East in 1931 and 1932 as a member of a mission from the Philippine Islands; legislative analyst to the House Committee on Rules in 1939; died in Washington, D.C., February 6, 1942. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.

Tavenner, Clyde H., 60, who was a member of Congress in 1916 was one of the outstanding opponents of America's entrance in the first World War, died at a local hospital yesterday after a long illness. The Representative from Illinois' 14th District in the 63rd and 64th Congresses gained wide notice through two sensational speeches, "The World Wide War Trust" and "The Navy League Unmasked". Henry Ford contributed over half a million dollars for distribution of the speeches and excerpts were published in full-page advertisements in nearly every daily newspaper of the country. A native of Cordova, Illinois, Mr. Tavenner was a journalist by profession and wrote many articles advocating Philippine independence. From 1919 to 1923 he was director of the Philippine Press Bureau in the United States and from 1923 to 1931 published and edited the magazine 'The Philippine Republic', which he founded. Before his election to Congress, Mr. Tavenner wrote a daily syndicated letter published in 100 papers and a weekly letter distributed to 2600 weekly papers. He served as publicity director for the Democratic National Congressional Committee in the 1910 and 1912 campaigns. Surviving are his wife and a son, Clyde H. Tavenner, Jr. of Washington, 2 daughters, Mrs. Homer G. Smith of Arlington, Virginia, and Mrs. Coleman Resenberger, of Washington.