

Fred Cina dies at 76; was state lawmaker, university regent

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Fred A. Cina, who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 22 years and became an authority on Iron Range tax issues, died Wednesday in his hometown of Aurora. He was 76.

He had been a patient in White Community Hospital in Aurora for three days.

Cina, a lawyer, was elected to the House in 1947 and served until 1969, when he was defeated. He was minority and majority leader during his legislative career.

In 1969 he was named a regent of the University of Minnesota and held that position until 1975.

"The Iron Range has sorely missed him since he left the Legislature and will long remember him now that he has passed away," said Peter Popovich, chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Popovich was in the House from 1953 to 1963.

In 1955, Liberals, who later would be called DFLers, took control of the House for the first time since the Depression, and Cina (pronounced Cheena) was elected majority leader by his colleagues.

"He was one of the most able, effective majority leaders I've ever known," Popovich said yesterday. "He was also a person who, when he

handled legislation, knew his subject matter inside out."

Under Cina's guidance a series of laws was passed affecting taxes on iron ore, including taconite. Under various programs, some of the tax proceeds were routed back to the Iron Range in the form of property tax relief and aid for cities and school districts.

Cina was born Feb. 19, 1908, the son of immigrants from Palermo, Sicily. He went to high school in Aurora and received a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1930. He practiced law in Aurora and Virginia.

He was city attorney for several east Iron Range cities in his early years of law practice.

In 1940 he married Ruth Bloomquist of Chisholm, Minn.

Two years later he ran for the state Senate and lost. In 1946 he ran for the House, won and began his long tenure.

Cina was an organizer and executive secretary for the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, Aurora; two sons, Frederick William and James, both of Virginia; a daughter, Carol Ruth Cina, Hopkins; three brothers, Edward, River Falls, Wis.,



Fred A. Cina in 1968

Stanley, Arlington, Minn., and Anthony, St. Louis; two sisters, Sara Cina, Los Angeles, and Rose Perrenboom, Columbus, Ohio, and three grandchildren.

Funeral mass will celebrated be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Aurora with burial in Forest Hill Cemetery. Military honors will be accorded by Quayle-Shuster American Legion Post, Aurora.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Holy Rosary church Hall in Aurora. The rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The family prefers that memorials be sent to the donors' favorite charities.

Arrangements are by the Ziemer-Moeglein Funeral Home in Aurora.