

# POLITICS TO STIR PGA MEET

*... and pros hope it will not crowd out real business matters*

ANNUAL meeting of the PGA will be held at Stevens hotel, Chicago, Nov. 9-10-11, with an executive annual dinner of the association will be held Nov. 8. The be held Nov. 9. Each section is entitled to 2 delegates, expenses of one being paid by the association. Attendance at meetings is restricted to officers, delegates and association employees; other association members and the press being excluded by a ruling put into effect at the 1936 meeting.

Leaders in pro thinking have urged that the annual PGA meetings discontinue the trend of recent years toward making the sessions top-heavy with political and administrative details and have counseled that the meetings be primarily concerned with business welfare of pros and their club service. However, lively political engagement looms for the 1937 conclave.

The political set-to was brought into the open when a group of PGA members launched a presidential campaign for Alex Cunningham, veteran sectional PGA official. The Cunningham case was set forth in a declaration of policies to which the candidate committed himself, and in charges that the complaint of the Federal Trade Commission against the PGA on the ball deal, the Radix Cup, the tournament bureau management, the Ryder Cup affair, and relations with amateur golf bodies had been mishandled due to unwarranted secrecy and unprofessional policy.

To the Cunningham camp's communication, Willie Maguire, as pres. of the Texas PGA and national PGA v.p. replied in another well circulated communication. Maguire maintained that the announcement of the Cunningham candidacy was engineered to tear down the PGA. The Maguire letter further censured the Cunningham expose by stating "none but a selfish and narrow minded person would condemn" Jacobus, president of the PGA since Nov., 1933. Maguire declared that under Jacobus the PGA has attained its strongest position with the USGA and manufacturers, and lauded Jacobus as a businessman and executive.

Meanwhile the majority of pros, hopeful that the PGA will adhere to its original policy of building up the individual mem-

bers' standing in the game and the business of golf, are getting an educational earful. Rumors of artful and sinister characters working in furtive ways to add to the mysteries of the PGA, contribute an amusing detail to the situation as it is viewed by the greater number of pros who would be content to learn fully what the score is and be allowed to arrive at their own independent judgments.

While the spirited campaign has been going on there has been no official statement from Jacobus as to his intentions toward a fifth consecutive term as president. Should he decide to rest on his past performance and not battle for a fifth term, the opposition's allegations of his determination to perpetuate himself at the head of the PGA would cease to exist and some of the laddies would be left wondering what to argue about.

Opinion of impartial pros is that the political controversy can be considered as evidence of a healthy interest of pros in arguing toward a well-founded conclusion, and a consequent sound strengthening of the PGA. The impartial members believe the charges of a dark and deliberate plot on the part of Jacobus to become the dictator of golf is as laughable as the other charge that corrective criticism of the PGA indicates disloyalty, rather than the exercise of free speech on the part of critical members.

There are pro observers of the PGA political situation who forecast that neither Jacobus nor Cunningham will be the next president, but that a dark horse will be yanked out of the field. At least six have been mentioned as presidential possibilities.

Some veteran pros forecast that the presidency will go to the guy with the best soapbox oratory, regardless of the issues involved, and wish that the political situation which has grown up in the PGA could be cheerfully murdered so pros in their expensive annual conference could get back to the pros' real business.