

## Armitage, GOP Stalwart, Dies

Once Called King Of Slot Machines

The voice that called the tune in Indiana Republican politics more than five decades was stilled in death here yesterday.

William H. (Bill) Armitage, who would give a friend "the shirt off his back," died at St. Vincent's Hospital at the age of 79.

Long regarded one of the most powerful behind-the-scenes political figures in Indianapolis, he had been ill several weeks and began sinking last Friday following an abdominal operation.

Armitage once was referred to as the "Indianapolis slot machine king."

HIS WIFE, Mrs. Josephine Armitage, was with him at the bedside at the time of death.

As owner of the Hoosier Mint (Novelties) Company in the Ober Building, 38½ North Pennsylvania Street, he was said to maintain complete control over distribution of slot machines in central Indiana. He calmly withstood all attempts to unseat him.

Two years ago he saw his bodyguard, chauffeur and business associate, Rex E. Moonshower, 45, shot to death in a gunduel in Armitage's office then at 308 North Capitol Avenue, with a bandit who also was wounded fatally.

Throughout his life he declined political appointments but was regarded one of the strongest

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## Billy Armitage

## Clipped By:



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