

## Yellow-Dog Democrat <sup>[1]</sup>

### Yellow-Dog Democrat

by Dennis Isenbarger, 2006



Alabama Representative and Senator James Thomas Heflin (1869 - 1951). Image from the Biographical Dictionary of the United States

Congress. <sup>[2]</sup>"Yellow-Dog Democrat," a popular term sometimes applied to ultra-loyal supporters of Democratic <sup>[3]</sup>candidates for public office, came into use in the third decade of the twentieth century. In 1928 Democratic senator Tom Heflin <sup>[4]</sup> of Alabama supported Republican Herbert Hoover <sup>[5]</sup> in his campaign for the presidency. Heflin's detractors, in response to his defection, declared that they would vote for a "yellow dog" before they would cast a ballot for a Republican <sup>[6]</sup>. The term, used as both a compliment and an insult, has continued to appear in North Carolina political speech.

#### Additional Resources:

Wilson, Reid. "Death of the 'Yellow Dog' Democrat." *National Journal*. August 25, 2011. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/columns/on-the-trail/death-of-the-yellow-dog-democrat-20110825> <sup>[7]</sup> (accessed September 18, 2012).

"Jim Long, Insurance Commissioner and NCPP Board Member, Receives Honors." *NC Prevention Partners Changing Lives*. Fall 2008. <http://www.ncpreventionpartners.org/ncpp/Document/Download?id=fccb6590-d3f5-410c-a574-a644e418a0e6> <sup>[8]</sup> (accessed September 18, 2012).

"Democrats to honor Charles Malone." *The Clayton News-Star*. July 12, 2012. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/07/21/2212953/club-notes.html> <sup>[9]</sup> (accessed September 18, 2012).

#### Image Credits:

"HEFLIN, James Thomas, (1869 - 1951)." Image from the Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000446> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed September 18, 2012).

#### Subjects:

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[Slogans, slang, and sayings](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

#### Authors:

[Isenbarger, Dennis](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

#### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)<sup>[13]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Isenbarger, Dennis

---

Source URL:<https://ncpedia.org/yellow-dog-democrat>

#### Links

[\[1\] https://ncpedia.org/yellow-dog-democrat](#) <sup>[2]</sup> <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000446> <sup>[3]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/#> <sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2952> <sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/herberthoover> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/republican-party> <sup>[7]</sup> <http://www.nationaljournal.com/columns/on-the-trail/death-of-the-yellow-dog-democrat-20110825> <sup>[8]</sup>

<http://www.ncpreventionpartners.org/ncpp/Document/Download?id=fccb6590-d3f5-410c-a574-a644e418a0e6> [9]  
<http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/07/21/2212953/club-notes.html> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/nc-industrial-rev> [11]  
<https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/slang> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/isenbarger-dennis> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->