

SUCCESSION

(Dr. Andrews.)

Godfrey
L. Sunoco - Tuesday, June 19, 1945
President Truman proposed to Congress today

a measure of vital importance in the practice of American government. He suggested a change in the presidential succession.

As things stand now - if President Truman should die or become incapacitated, the Secretary of State would become President. Mr. Stettinius - or someone else whom the President, in the future, might name as Secretary of State.

This, in fact, is exactly the angle that the President emphasizes. He notes that he is in a position to appoint his own successor to the White House.

He doesn't think that this is right.

It is not in accord with democracy. He tells Congress that the President should not be in a position to name his own ~~successor~~ successor - by White House appointment. He argues that the succession to the Presidency should go to an official elected by the people.

So, therefore, he proposes that the present

law should be changed - the law making the Secretary of State successor to the President. Mr. Truman proposes that the succession should go to the Speaker of the House - who at present is Congressman Rayburn of Texas. Then, next in line, the President pro tem of the Senate.

This presidential proposal was placed before Congress shortly before President Truman flew to San Francisco -- to close the United Nations Conference,

~~that~~ (And now we are presented with this exceedingly human fact: President Truman, known as an old line American liberal Democrat, wants to deprive himself of one most important power -- that of naming his own successor, should anything happen to him. ~~He wants to~~

~~to name his successor.~~

Well, the whole thing is involved in some fascinating bits of American history. The Constitution provides that a President shall be succeeded by a Vice President but who shall be next in line of succession to the Vice President? The Constitution leaves that for Congress to decide -- saying that Congress should pass a law to ~~settle~~ settle the matter.

The first law that Congress passed on that question named the President pro tem of the Senate to be next in line. In those days Senators were chosen by State Legislators and not by the people directly.

The arrangement came to a dramatic climax in the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, after the Civil War.

If the impeachment of Johnson had succeeded and he had been removed from office, the President pro tem of the Senate would ^{have} become President of the United States. The net result was to put the Senate in a ^{position} ~~position~~ to pick a President - had the impeachment gone through.

After that, the law was changed - making the Secretary of State next in line. ~~And so on to~~
~~be changed.~~ If President Truman has his way ~~no~~
~~debt to~~ ~~and~~ the Presidential succession will go to the House of Representatives, which is the nearest to the people, a Congress elected after two years.

EISENHOWER

Around New York, this past spring and during the early summer, the weather man has been a malicious old codger - playing all sorts of tricks with chilly cold and humid heat. And today the prankish weather man had a chance to play tricks with General Eisenhower's big parade. The morning began dull ~~and~~ and drab, rain threatening. But the wet weather held off until mid-afternoon, and that was a break for General Ike and the millions of New Yorkers who thronged the line of the Eisenhower procession.

The tour ended at the Polo Grounds - the General going to the ball game. Then came the rain - but by that time the streets of New York had had their opportunity to pay a cheering tribute to the conquering commander home from victory in Europe.

OIL

Here is testimony in a question often discussed - are the oil reserves of the United States running low? Today in Washington an answer was given to a congressional committee, and the answer was - no.

The witness was J. Edgar Pew, Vice President of the Sun Oil Company. He ridiculed prediction of a coming oil famine. He estimated that the total known oil reserves in the United States was more than twenty-three billion, five hundred million barrels.

During Nineteen Forty-four, he indicated, new oil supplies were discovered to the amount of more than two billion barrels. That year, last year, the demand for American oil was the greatest in history - petroleum needed for the climax of the European War and the upsurge of the conflict in the Pacific. Nevertheless, the new oil discovered exceeded that enormous demand by nearly four hundred million barrels.

OKINAWA

Tonight's latest dispatch from the Pacific states: "Announcement of a complete victory on Okinawa is expected at any hour from Admiral Nimitz". Earlier the Admiral had stated that the end of Jap resistance was imminent - the remnant of the enemy force being cornered in a small death pocket on top of cliffs overlooking the East China Sea.

The news today told of new swift American advances against Japs who are so disorganized they can't even ~~be~~ get together for banzai suicide charges. Only some two or three thousand remain out of an original Okinawa garrison of eighty-five thousand.

HAINAN

The Japs are reported to be evacuating Hainan. That's a large and most important island off the coast of southern China. Chungking states that enemy troops there are pulling out. They have been abandoning the nearby mainland provinces of China, Kwangsi and Kwantung. And now the island too is being given up.

Hainan is one of the little known parts of the world. Also -- one of the most strategic sectors of the Pacific War, because it lies just ~~xx~~ off the mainland of South China separated by the Strait of Hainan. It dominates the whole Gulf of Tonkin and would make access from the sea impossible for the Japs.

I was on the ~~main~~ island years ago collecting ~~many specimens~~ specimens for the American Museum of Natural History. At that time it was very dangerous to go far inland because tribes of savage natives lived ^{in the thick jungle} among the high rugged mountains. I had to work principally along the coast. ~~But~~ Even the few missionaries there were frequently attacked by the savages if they left the sea-port, Hoi-how.

Some years later

~~Scientist~~ I sent one of my young
scientists Clifford Pope back into the mountains with
~~scientist~~ a native who acted as a liaison between the savages.
He made a wonderful collection of reptiles and mammals
most of which were new to science.

AIR WAR

The latest blows of the air war against Japan have hit some lesser known places. Not headline

cities like Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama. *but nevertheless extremely important as production centers. I can see you from personal knowledge.*

We now hear of Shizuoka, Fukuoka, and Toyohashi -- on the islands of Honshu and Kiushu. These comparatively little known cities are

hives of Japanese war industry. They were hit by between four and five hundred B-29s, and the story is the now familiar one of bombs of jellied gasoline starting tempests of flame in flimsy cities of wood and *paper.*

POLES

In Moscow the confessions continue in the trial of the sixteen Polish leaders - just as confessions were so profuse in the great Soviet purge-trials of half a dozen years ago.

Today one witness was a commander of the Polish Underground. He testified that the Underground was ordered to prepare for an armed struggle against the Soviets. And that story was confirmed by one of the sixteen defendants - Janowsky, Vice Premier of the Polish government-in-exile and former head of the underground cabinet in Warsaw.

~~Another witness, a Polish newspaperman, stated that he did underground propaganda work against the Soviets. He said he had his orders from London, that is from the Polish government in exile.~~

The whole tenor of this Moscow trial is to accuse the Polish government-in-exile and to place an emphasis of guilt on the principal of the defendants - General Okulicki Commander of the Polish underground. General Okulicki succeeded the legended General Bor,

who was the Chief of the Polish patriot uprising in Warsaw which was crushed by the Nazis.

It is always difficult for an American to understand those Moscow trials. But in this case it isn't so hard to fathom the motives of the Polish underground. They had been fighting the Nazis and then along came the Soviets demanding about a half of prewar Poland - not to mention the Soviet policy in sponsoring a Polish government of its own choice. It seems likely enough that the underground, battling the Nazis, was also hostile to the Red Army. At any rate, that's the gist of the confessions of the Polish leaders in the Moscow trial.

ADD POLAND

A late story tells of testimony given by Okulicki himself. The Polish ~~pm~~ leader was confronted with many charges of Polish violence against the Red Army. His responses were bold and defiant. He didn't cringe in admitting his part in the ~~war~~ Polish movement. He said, "the purpose of our organization was to fight for Poland's independence. We were," he added, "to fight anybody who infringed our independence". "Did that", demanded the Red prosecutor "also mean the Red Army?"

"Yes," responded Okulicki.

LEOPOLD

King Leopold of Belgium today announced that he is going to return to Brussels and resume his place as the Sovereign of the Belgian nation. This puts an end to a lot of rumors that Leopold intended to abdicate - renounce his crown.

~~He became a prisoner of the Nazis when he and his Belgian army surrendered in the early dark days of the Hitler blitzkrieg. During his captivity, the husband of the late Queen Astrid remarried - espousing a commoner. He was liberated by American troops, and has been in seclusion in Austria ever since.~~

Belgium has been in a state of political turmoil, with all sorts of dissension raging around the question of the return of Leopold as monarch. The Cabinet in power was against it - and now has resigned in protest. The Premier, in ~~stepping~~ stepping out, indicates that Leopold will return as soon as a new cabinet is formed.

JET PLANES

We are given an explanation of why Nazi Germany did not make more successful use of jet planes - which were so tremendously fast you could hardly see them come and go. We are told that the production of jet planes was deliberately sabotaged by big German industrialists.

This ^{information} ~~was~~ has been procured by United Press Correspondent Jack Fleischer from an official who had charge of the special train of Nazi Number Two man, Goering. The official was able to listen in, and hear things -- we are told. He said the German industrialists understood clearly that the war was lost, and that the jet plane - important as it was - could not alter the decision. They thought -- why ~~we~~ waste such a valuable secret on a lost cause? They would keep the contraption from going into production - and thereby be able to exploit the jet plane after the war.

Research was pushed until the jet plane had reached a high degree of perfection, but production was delayed, under one pretext or another - the

industrialists making all sorts of excuses. And one of these industrialists is said to have been a top-ranking figure in the house of Krupp, the cannon builder of Essen.

Well, they succeeded in delaying the production of the jet plane - so what happens now? One bit of news tonight is that German technicians questioned by the Allies, are disclosing freely their secrets of jet propulsion. Maybe they hope they have a patent.

LOOT

Here's a late story that tells of a new kind of Nazi loot - enormous. It has been discovered at Regensburg, Germany - a treasure~~h~~-hoard consisting of the national wealth of Austria and Bavaria. Its value ~~is~~ as estimated is way up in the billions of dollars - a vast store of gold and silver, foreign securities, jewels, and objects of art.

This treasure story is accompanied by another news dispatch ~~is~~ which tells of the opening of a secret Hitler strongbox at Berchtesgaden. American military men have been searching the Hitler mountain home and there they found a concealed sliding panel near a window, this they opened and behind it found a steel strong box. Boy, but they were ~~so~~ excited! The Secret Hitler hiding place seemed to promise the deepest of Nazi secrets. They called an acetyline torch expert, and he burned through the steel strongbox behind the panel.

What did they find? They nearly collapsed with surprise and disappointment. In the Hitler hiding place were eight sketches of women's dresses - eight

fashion drawings.

Now what was Hitler doing these these?

And why were they hidden away in the strongbox? Maybe the house painter Fuehrer was taking a whirl at fashion designing - going up in the world. It's a guess -- a mystery.

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And new Goodrich-