

HUGHES

C.T. - P. & G. Friday, August 27, 1948.

A late bulletin -- (former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes died tonight -- at the age of eighty-six.) He was at Barnstable, Massachusetts, with his family when the end came. One time Governor of New York, Republican candidate for President, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court -- Charles Evans Hughes was one of the most distinguished Americans of his time.

SUBSTITUTE CRISIS

We have a London report that the negotiations in Moscow have reached an agreement -- in principle. This London dispatch goes so far as to say that the meeting at the Kremlin this evening may have brought about a final settlement. If so, the signal will be a brief communique tomorrow -- with a detailed announcement later on.

We are told that the major problem for the western envoys has been to make sure of an agreement thorough going on every point -- without loopholes. Hitherto the democracies have made various deals with Stalin and Molotov on a broad basis -- covering the larger phases. The result has been that, when they started to apply an agreement in practice, things got snarled up in a maze of details -- the Russians objecting stubbornly on minor points. This time, the western powers are determined not to make the same mistake, and have been thrashing matters out for a fool-proof solution -- to settle the Berlin crisis.

The London optimism is tempered by caution. While saying that a final agreement may have been made at the Kremlin this evening, the dispatch points out that the Soviets have a way of upsetting things abruptly. For example, in this case, they might suddenly insist on including the West German angle in an agreement on the Berlin crisis. Which would bring about another deadlock, according to London diplomatic opinion.

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The version in London diplomatic circles is this: Stalin is indeed showing the signs of age. The little grey boss in the Kremlin is feeling his seventy years. But that merely emphasizes a habit he has had all his life. Stalin's way has been to conserve his energies and delegate to others as much work as possible. It was noted that, before the war, he seldom appeared in public -- leaving that as much as possible to subordinates.

But during the war Stalin appeared frequently, made many speeches, hustled and bustled around, on the job of driving Russia to a Supreme War effort. All of which taxed his strength -- as his years increased.

So after the war, as he went on towards his seventy, he reverted more and more to his former habit,

delegating work to others. That accounts for his retirement to his country place on the Black Sea - and returning to Moscow only when some top level exercise of authority is needed.

In other words, we have been misinterpreting the signs which seem to indicate that Stalin has more or less retired. The meaning of the signs is just the opposite - indicating that Stalin is conserving his strength in his old age, so that he may hold supreme power in a one man dictatorship, to the very end.

The municipal government body has a majority of non-Communist. Of a hundred and thirty members only twenty-six are Reds -- but these appear to be determined to take over by the use of violence. Hence we have tonight with the Council, with jurisdiction over all Berlin, are now out of the city hall, and leave the Soviet zone.

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SUB BERLIN * FOLLOW CRISIS

From Berlin we hear that the city council may ~~not~~ move away from its present headquarters in the Soviet zone this, as a result of new Red ~~disturbances~~ ^{disturbances} today.

Yesterday, the session of the Assembly had to be called off when a Communist mob smashed its way into the city hall. Today the same thing happened all over again - when a crowd carrying Communist banners and shouting Red slogans invaded the place, and caused the meeting to be abandoned.

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~~Where will they go? The answer is interesting.)~~ ^{So} ~~The~~ ^{Council} ~~council~~ is talking about moving headquarters to the old Reichstag building-- the place that burned down in the famous Reichstag Fire.

That was a central incident in the rise of Hitler to Supreme ~~in~~ power. Today, the one-time Reichstag building has a basement, which would be available for meetings of the Berlin City Assembly.

The important point is this -- the Reichstag building is in the British sector. It remains to be seen how the Reds would like any such move -- the Berlin City government moving out of the Soviet zone and over into the British zone.

The Berlin news tells of another ugly episode concerning Russians and Americans. Two G I's on motorcycle patrol spotted a speeding jeep in the American zone. They caught up with the jeep, and in it were Russian soldiers - who knocked one of the G I's from his motorcycle. They threatened him with a pistol, and then tried to run him down -- they drove their jeep directly at him. The G I private first class James H. Petergal of Pittsburgh, narrowly escaped with his life, and was taken to a hospital suffering from bruises.

The latest - the Soviets claim that one of the Russians in the Jeep was shot by Americans. Hit in the shoulder. This appears to be ^{true} ~~rumor~~ one Provost-Marshall's office in Berlin saying the shots were fired by American military policemen, who fired at the rampaging jeep.

Still later - an American newsman and two German reporters working for Americans have disappeared in the Soviet sector of Berlin, presumably they are being held by the Soviets. The American -- Jack Meehan of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, staff correspondent of the United Press.

FRANCE

In Paris the government resigned tonight, the Cabinet of Premier Andre Marie stepping out. After being in power for only one month, the Premier ran into trouble because of a fiscal bill introduced by Finance Minister Paul Reynaud. The program he presented called for financial sacrifices. There was angry debate in the Chamber of Deputies today, and tonight the Cabinet of Premier Andre Marie resigned.

DRAFT

The army is cutting its first draft call. It had been expected that ~~xx~~ under the new selective service law, fifteen thousand would be summoned for the armed forces at once -- the first call. But that figure has now been cut to ten thousand -- so announced in ~~x~~ Washington tonight.

The reason -- a record-breaking rush of volunteers. ~~During~~ During the first week of ~~Aug~~ August between eleven and twelve thousand recruits joined up -- in consequence of which not so many will be needed in the first draft.

HURRICANE

thought as
~~as small~~
The hurricane out in the Atlantic is described violent, and erratic. The circle of the revolving wind ^{now} ~~is~~ only about sixty miles in diameter, ~~covering far less area than is usual in a tropical~~ ~~tempest.~~ -But the lack of size is made up by the strength of the wind. During the day, the speed of the gale picked up fifteen miles, ~~an hour~~, and at last reports the velocity was hundred-and-fifteen miles an hour. The path taken by the hurricane has been shifting. In general, the storm had been moving northwest, but ~~ixxxx~~ its path is ^{wildly} erratic, ~~swinging across degrees with~~ ~~a compass.~~ which brings up the ^{point:} important ~~q-~~ will ~~x~~ it hit Florida?

The hurricane right now is ~~seven-xxxxx~~ hundred-and-sixty miles east of Miami, and the weather authorities hope that it will veer sufficiently to the north to miss the American Coast. But they are making no predictions -- not in the case of this hurricane, ^{so} ~~short,~~ violent and erratic.

(Florida is taking no chances -- not ~~xx~~ after

the beating Florida took from a similar tropical howler, September of last year. In Miami today, the city authorities issued - a full storm alert. Instructions ~~were issued~~ to remove structures and rubbish that might fly in the wind -- the cannonade of storm debris being one of the most dangerous features when the tropical tempest hits.)

Along the gold coast, the ~~the~~ luxury resorts up to Palm Beach, people are taking precautions against the possibility of another blast like ~~the~~ the one of last year. The gold coast has not yet recovered its full glitter after the hurricane havoc of last autumn.

SPIDER

In Chicago, today brought an end to the battle of the spider and the snake. This weird conflict had gone on for three days -- a life and death struggle between a tiny spider and a garter snake eight inches long. Midget versus a giant. Wide attention was attracted, curiosity, scientific interest, humane protest and suspense.

The story first came to light three days ago, in the basement of a farmhouse at York Center, Illinois. Farmer Norman Lingenfelter going to his basement in the morning, noticed some kind of commotion under his work bench. He investigated and saw a garter snake caught in a spiderweb. It would seem that, during the night, the reptile had fallen into the web, its tail snared in the gossamer strands - so that now it hung suspended, its head on inch or two from the floor.

As ~~Farmer Lingenfelter~~ ^{the farmer} stood and stared, the garter snake was thrashing violently, while the spider was busy spinning new threads around the victim. The

spider was minute, hardly bigger than the head of an average stickpin. By comparison, the eight inch reptile was a monster. The strange scene a vivid example of the proverbial strength of the spider's web, the toughness of each silken strand of the filmy lacework.

Farmer Lingenfelter might have ended the whole thing right then and there - by ripping the web and letting the reptile go. But he refrained. He said: "The law of the jungle must take its course."

So the battle continued, and became a local sensation. Neighbors flocked to ~~watch~~ watch. It was noted ~~+~~ how the reptile dangling in the web, would go into a writhing struggle, breaking strands, as if about to shatter the web. But the tiny spider was busy, tireless crawling out and repairing the broken threads, and spinning new ones -- building up the deadly trap.

Repeatedly, the spider tried to bite the reptile, and settle the matter with spider poison. But the tiny creature could not penetrate the scales of the garter snake - so huge by comparison.

~~There was a widening interest in the fantasmal~~
~~conflict~~ ² ~~down in the depths of nature.~~ New^s reports
 brought scientists, to observe. The zoologists explained
 that a spider catches ^{its} food supply in its web, and that
 an eight inch garter snake was big game indeed, too big
 for a pin-head spider. ~~(But the minute creature was~~
~~obeying instinct, doing the regular thing supposed to be~~
~~done, when anything struggling was caught in the web.~~

The news got to the humane society in Chicago,
 which issued a protest and demanded that the abysmal life
 and death x conflict should be stopped. An official of
 the Chicago anti-cruelty society declared; "it is cruel
 and ~~vixine~~ vicious to let it continue!"

But Farmer Lingenfelter responded stubbornly,
 "the law of the jungle must take its course."

Today brought the final climatic ^c ~~a~~tion. The
 dangling reptile made a supreme effort - and, with a
 violent struggle, broke the web. That is, broke the web
 sufficiently to reach the floor - but the delicate

strands still held the tail. The tiny spider hurried to repair the damage, spin more web around the reptile, renew the trap. But ~~then~~ the garter snake, now on the floor, seemed sure to break away eventually.

Then in this life and death drama staged by nature, there came a new turn -- to build up the suspense all over again. A second spider entered the picture, a larger one, joining in the work of throwing a web around the garter snake. The newcomer wove strands around the reptile's neck, and then both spiders moved along the length of the body, weaving web.

So, you think the spiders won the battle?
By now this masterpiece of nature's own *that on the 2nd day* dramatics had attracted so much attention, ~~that~~ dispatches flashed on the news wire, relating the progress of the battle. *Then today, the 3rd day* ~~Here's~~ the last one - telling the following:

the garter snake, after ~~it~~ taking a rest, now had leverage on the floor, some kind of ~~power~~ purchase with which to apply its strength. So, in spite of the busy web-weaving of the two spiders, the garter snake began to thrash about with such vigor that threads of the web

gave way and snapped. The reptile broke ~~in~~ loose, and went ~~six~~ slithering away to a hole in the basement

After that 3 day struggle
-- one tired garter snake. The law of the jungle had ~~run~~ ^{run} its course.

And this b'dcast will only have run its course, Nelson, after you weave your web of words.

STALIN FOLLOW CRISIS

The Moscow negotiations have indicated one thing - that Stalin remains the boss in Russia. Such is the observation in diplomatic circles in London. The series of conversations in the Kremlin have many angles, not the least of which is the revelation -- that one man, Josef Stalin, continues to be the absolute master of Soviet Russia.

This follows all sorts of suppositions to the contrary. It was the fashion a little while ago to say that Stalin was a prisoner of the politburo. That is - a figurehead, the real power being wielded by that committee which represents the highest political level in the Soviet system. The supposition that Stalin, growing old, was yielding to the burdens of age in taking ~~a~~ much less active part in the decisions made by the politburo. He will be seventy next December -- a time of life when many ~~th~~ take things easy.

It has been noted that of late his appearances in public have become less and less ~~freqx~~ frequent - Stalin spending the greater part of ~~his~~ his time at his country

place, a palace on the Black Sea. Which would seem to look like retirement.

There have been many rumors that Stalin was in ill health - one headline report revolving around a mysterious visit to Moscow by a Scandinavian doctor, a cancer expert. ~~Th~~ But London remarks that the Russian trip of the cancer specialist concerned some other Soviet big shot - not Stalin.

The general fact about the status of Stalin seems to be indicated by that long string of current conversations -- the visits from the Western ~~Em~~ envoys to the Kremlin. These show a pattern. Most of the talks have been with Molotov, he undertaking the brunt of the work. Then, when a decision has to be made by the very top, the envoys, going to the Kremlin, see Stalin.

The version in London diplomatic circles is this: Stalin is indeed showing ~~the~~ signs of age. The little grey boss in the Kremlin is feeling his seventy years.

But that merely emphasizes a habit he has had all his life. Stalin's way has been to conserve his energies. Even in the early years of his dictatorship, his habit was to delegate to others as much work as possible - which is, indeed, a method of an able administrator. ~~Stalin~~ Stalin's way: ~~as~~ to handle personally only the most important matters, which had to have his attention. It was noted that, before the war, he seldom appeared in public - leaving as much as possible to subordinates.

But the war changed all that. The crisis was such that Stalin appeared frequently, made many speeches, hustled and bustled around, on the job of driving Russia to a supreme war effort. He had to do a vast amount of work, undertaking all sorts of things personally. All of which taxed his strength -- as his years increased.

So after the war, as he went on ~~xxxxxx~~ towards seventy, he reverted more and more to his former habit, delegating work to others, husbanding his strength, and stepping in only when a supreme decision was needed.

That accounts for his retirement to his country place

on the Black Sea; -- ~~and~~ returning to Moscow only when some top level exercise of authority is needed. In other words, we have been misinterpreting the signs which seem to indicate that Stalin has more or less retired. The meaning of the signs is just the opposite - indicating that Stalin is conserving his strength in his old age, so that he may hold supreme power in a one man dictatorship to the very end.