

Foreign Reaction To Resignation Of Byrnes Varied

(By the Associated Press)
The resignation of James F. Byrnes as United States Secretary of State was received in world capitals today with sharp surprise, and expressions of regret were mingled with overtones of bewilderment.
A chorus of approval for the appointment of Gen. George C. Marshall as Byrnes' successor extended to the Russian-controlled press in Berlin, but foreign offices buzzed with speculation over the possible effects of the dramatic change upon America's foreign policy.
Among United Nations representatives at Lake Success, N. Y., attention centered on the fact that Byrnes' resignation followed so closely that of Bernard M. Baruch as U. S. member of the U. N. Atomic Commission. But

Flee for Their Lives From Storm Driven Wave



(NEA Telephoto)
This huge wave smashing over the seawall near Hilo, Hawaii, sends a fireman (left) and Navy officer (right) scurrying for their lives over the rugged lava boulders. Waves like this one battered the Hawaiian Islands during recent storm that sent residents fleeing inland and heavily damaged shore and post installations.

there were no immediate indications that the American delegation would seek any postponement of the disarmament discussion scheduled for the Security Council agenda tomorrow.

Reaction Varied
Official London received the selection of Gen. Marshall with approval. But the press, which treated the announcement as top news, generally regretted Byrnes' retirement. The influential Times hailed Byrnes' skill and tenacity, but said the appointment of an American supporter, and said "the successes achieved at the end of the year owe much to him."

The Communist Daily Worker speculated that Byrnes was "regarded as an old Roosevelt man," and expressed belief he had been ousted by President Truman.

In Berlin the resignation caused consternation among German political leaders, particularly those of the Social Democratic party. One of these recalled that Byrnes had won many Germans with his Sept. 6 Stuttgart speech, which the Germans said gave them "hope of existence."

Moscow Satisfied
But the Soviet-controlled newspaper, Nach Express welcomed Marshall as "a man of more flexible views and policies than Byrnes," and one who has "the reputation of maintaining good relations with Soviet statesmen." It said his efforts for a reconciliation between Chinese Communists and the government made him "the right man in Moscow's eyes" to succeed Byrnes.

China's officials followed the usual course of declining to comment formally, but government sources expressed satisfaction at the selection of Gen. Marshall, who for 13 months as a special U. S. envoy became well informed on Chinese problems.

Occupation officials in Europe reflected a general belief that the change would mean little shift in occupation policy.

Keep Present Tax Levels, Truman's Recommendation
(Continued from Page One)

passed the employment act of 1946 last summer.

6-Point Program Advised

For a long range program, the chief executive suggested:
1. Enactment of legislation to prevent discrimination against racial and other minority groups and to bring about efficient coordination of the employment services of the 48 states.

Mr. Truman asked the last Congress in vain to establish a permanent fair employment practice commission charged with preventing employment discrimination against minorities.

2. Production incentives for business to expand, thus providing employment and maintaining maximum consumption of agricultural products.

He recommended greater flexibility in the government's farm price support program to avoid the danger of keeping the level "too high."

3. Encouragement of "free enterprise" by (a) amendment of the anti-trust laws to prohibit mergers through acquisition of assets or stock control, and (b) easier long-term credit to "small

and promising business enterprises."

4. Adjustment of federal retirement and pension systems to "the size and composition of our labor force," increased social security benefits and expansion of peace-time programs of "public health, nutrition and education."

5. Reciprocal reduction of trade barriers. Mr. Truman cited progress in the formation of an international trade organization as "the most important step that we can take to reestablish a high volume of trade on a sound basis."

6. A well-integrated program of employment stabilization, "improvements in the processes by which workers find jobs and employers find workers; improvements in the tax structure; wise management of the public debt and a flexible credit policy."

More Aid For Needy Urged
In asking immediate revision of benefit payments under the social security system, Mr. Truman said:

"The Congress has already authorized a temporary increase in public assistance benefits. This legislation expires at the end of this year and new legislative action is required."

"Benefits under the old-age and survivors' insurance system should also be adjusted. These measures are necessary to alleviate real hardship which has been aggravated by increases in the cost of living. Beyond that, adequate social security benefit payments provide a desirable support to mass purchasing power."

The President reiterated his endorsement of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft long-range housing bill.

As an argument for keeping rent ceilings, Mr. Truman said "a large increase in rents would substantially reduce consumer purchasing power."

No Price Abuses Wanted
He remarked that the government can help to maintain a balance between prices and wages. In this connection he said government buying agencies "will avoid policies that stimulate price increases or prevent reductions," adding:

"Disposal of surplus goods will be speeded. The anti-trust laws will be applied vigorously to prevent and eliminate restrictive practices and pricing abuses."

The wage-hour act should be

extended to "classes of workers in interstate commerce now excluded," the President said, without naming them. The act specifically excludes some workers, such as processors of agricultural products.

Secy. Byrnes Resigns; Gen. Marshall Succeeds

(Continued from Page One)

where Byrnes leaves off.

Hence capital interest in his future policies was equalled if not exceeded by the fact that as secretary of state the five-star general will become first in line for succession to the presidency and whether he likes it or not—a leading figure among the 1948 Democratic presidential possibilities.

Democratic and Republican members of congress alike lauded Marshall's selection, tempering their comment only with regret at Byrnes' departure.

At 66, Marshall is stepping into one of his most difficult and critical tasks. As Army chief of staff he did much to design the strategy of Allied victory. As secretary of state he will have possibly a greater responsibility—that of working with the foreign ministers of other major powers to complete the structure of peace.

Byrnes, only little more than a year older than Marshall, attributed his resignation to doctors' advice early last year that he had to "slow down." He said he could

not remain secretary of state and do that.

Long in Public Service
Accepting the resignation, the President gave his old friend a "well done" and "the thanks of the nation" for the achievements of his long public career.

This had carried him through both branches of congress, to the supreme court, into a wartime job as war mobilizer under the late President Roosevelt, and finally to the state department.

Amid all the hubbub over the change, the only one of the central figures who had nothing whatever to say for the moment was Marshall himself. He was somewhere over the Western Pacific, flying home from 13 arduous months in China, where he had been trying in vain to promote peace between the nation's nationalists and communists.

A shakeup in the state department seemed likely to result from the third change of secretaries in two years, beginning with the resignation of Cordell Hull in November, 1944. But this may be long delayed.

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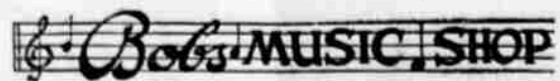
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