

**WHO WOULD SUCCEED HIM?**

**70-Year-Old Joe Stalin Now Takes Life Easier, Said In Good Health**

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER  
 WASHINGTON—(AP)—Western authorities hear that Joseph V. Stalin, 70, is taking life a little easier. He is also said to be in good health and presumably able to carry on as the big boss of the Communist world for several years more.

But his anniversary inevitably brings up the question of a successor, and also what effect a change might have on the cold war policies of the Soviet Union.

Since no one outside the Kremlin has any facts on these points, the answers to these and similar questions have about the weight of informed guesses—but guesses

made by officials who are long-time students of Soviet politics. Molotov Mentioned

The current belief among these officials is that when Stalin passes out of the picture his official position of leadership may be occupied by V. M. Molotov, the former premier and foreign minister. They think that his real power may be shared by Molotov with at least two other members of the politburo.

When that time comes, the belief here is that Russian policy, both internal and external, will remain unchanged while a struggle for absolute personal power goes on among the men who initially divide Stalin's authority. The two men mentioned most frequently as likely to share it



**THEIR FIRST REAL CHRISTMAS**—Goggle-eyed with wonder, German children are fascinated by the window display of a toy shop in Frankfurt. Members of a generation that has known nothing but war and its aftermath of privation, these youngsters and thousands of German children like them are seeing mechanical toys for the first time in their lives. Germany, once one of the world's largest producers of such toys, has been exporting all post-war production up to this year. (AP wirephoto)

with Molotov are Georgi M. Malenkov, 47, who now controls the Communist party machinery under Stalin, and Lavrenti Beria, 50, another full member of the politburo, who is believed to be a kind of super-chief of the Russian police.

**Politburo Powerful**  
 The 12-man politburo is the powerful policy making committee of the Communist party, of which Stalin is chief. Its members may include other personalities who actually have a tighter secret hold on the ladder to eventual succession than any of the three most talk about. But American government officials do not consider that likely.

If Stalin has made provisions for his successor or if he has already begun delegating final authority to some of the men around him, U. S. officials don't know it, but don't think it probable. What is known about Stalin and how he lives today is relatively scanty. It is said that he no longer puts in the exhausting long nights of work which were typical during the war. In the war years he would go to work at the Kremlin in late afternoon and not leave his office for his country home until about breakfast time the next morning.

In contrast to this strenuous schedule, in recent years he has spent more time at the Black sea resort of Sochi. Also, even when he has presumably been in Moscow—actually at his "dacha"—country home near the city—he has spent shorter hours at the Kremlin.

**Estimates Change**  
 American estimates of the character of the Russian leader have changed radically since the war years. During the Roosevelt administration and in the early days of President Truman's regime, there was a dominant view among government leaders that Stalin was more cooperative in his attitude toward the United States and the west than were other Russian officials.

Out of this grew the belief that difficult problems of Russo-American relations could be solved if only Stalin's personal intervention in the workings of the Soviet government could be obtained.

Today, however, the State department at least is convinced that there is no real difference between the basic aims and policies of Stalin and those of the men who help him run Russia.

President Truman once called the Soviet leader a prisoner of the politburo, suggesting that the rest of the world could get along with "Joe" and that it was the men around him who made all the trouble. Mr. Truman's own advisers, however, do not share this view.

From time to time some State department officials have played with the speculation that if Stalin

died the repressions and strains built up in the Soviet Union by dictatorship police methods would become uncontrollable and in a sense the country would "blow its top" in a new political explosion. There are few it any who hold that view now.

The belief is rather that the police system is so powerful that no such explosion could occur.

**Yoncalla**

By MRS. GEO. EDES  
 Mrs. Roy Bryant was pleasantly surprised Friday when arriving home from town, she found a new Chevrolet sedan in her garage, a Christmas present from her brother, Jim Schoosa.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Davis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett spent Sunday visiting at the beach. They returned home with 15 nice sea perch.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Heiss of Page, Nebr. left Wednesday for California after spending two weeks visiting their nephew and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Cullin.

Golda Woolman, Mrs. Percy Applegate and Eddie Vest were guests at a turkey dinner and a premier of "Battle Ground" guests of the M. B. M. studio of Hollywood, who entertained theatre owners of Oregon. The party and premier took place in Albany, Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hytrek and baby of Eugene spent several days this week visiting at the McDonald home in Scotts Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Booth, attended a reception in Eugene, Sunday honoring his father, Roy Booth and wife.

**Still Seized In Benton County; Three Arrested**

CORVALLIS, Dec. 23.—(AP)—It had been 15 years since sheriff's officers here had had anything to do with a case of this type, but they made the grade, and today a moonshine still rested quietly in the Benton county jail and three arrests had been made.

The still had been operated at a secluded farm in the hills southwest of Philomath, officers reported.

Held were Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Hardy, both of route 4, Albany, and Frederick N. Lynn, Portland. The Hardys were charged with operating an unlicensed distillery and Lynn with possession of untaxed liquor.

At the time the arrests were made, little of the finished product of high-powered "mountain dew" was on hand, but the 20-gallon still was percolating and 300 gallons of corn mash also was found.

**Plane Wreckage Found Three Occupants Dead**

McKINNEY, Tex., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Wreckage of a Tulsa plane missing since Monday on a flight to Dallas was found six miles west of here Thursday. Bodies of all three Tulsa men aboard were found at the wreckage site.

The plane fell in a blackland farming area, fairly level and with only a few trees.

The three victims were H. J. Happel, president of the Happel Construction Co., Tulsa; C. W. Healey, an engineer, and W. J. Crawley, the pilot.

**Slayer, 18, Given Life Sentence**

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 23.—(AP)—An 18-year-old boy is under a life prison sentence for a murder that culminated the high school romance he says was highlighted with sex orgies and nude photography.

The high school junior, Ronnie Pitts, was sentenced Wednesday for the murder of Perry Henderson, vacuum cleaner firm executive.

Henderson was the father of sophomore sweetheart, Anna Pitts' 17-year-old high school girlfriend.

Pitts' attorneys gave notice of appeal to the State Supreme court when Circuit Judge Earl Thomas denied a new trial.

A jury convicted Pitts Monday night but disregarded a state demand for the death penalty. Instead it recommended life imprisonment, making that sentence mandatory.

During the trial the courtroom was packed with Bobby Soxers, many of them schoolmates of Anna and Ronnie. At one time they packed the balcony so tightly an engineer was called to ascertain if it would stand the strain.

Henderson's body, shot through the head, was found in his home here June 25.

**Tax Levy Election May Be Called In Portland**

PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Mayor Dorothy McCullough said Wednesday a special tax levy election may be called to help bolster treasury revenues.

It was a tentative proposal made following her success in defeating financial Commissioner Ormond R. Bean's motion to slash all city budgets 10 percent effective Jan. 1.

Bean had argued personnel would not be affected, but Mayor Lee and Commissioner William A. Bowes said the savings Bean anticipated could not be achieved without dropping police and firemen and other workers from the payrolls.

Earlier, yesterday, a delegation of city employees asked the council for a pay boost of \$25 a month. A spokesman argued it was no fault of the workers that the city was in financial distress.

Germany's U-21 was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship on the high seas.

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 Where the Old Year ends,  
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 To greet Old Friends.  
 What a pleasure to say  
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