

Editorial Page

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Principle Of Equal Justice Suffers

What if he was innocent?
This is the question which must be troubling most Americans today. It's a question which must have started worrying its way into the American conscience Sunday from the moment Jack Ruby fired the point-blank shot into Lee Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.

The last four days have been so shockingly grotesque that it may well seem all reason has gone out of an apparently civilized country.

An immensely popular President killed at the peak of life by an assassin with reasons nobody knows yet. A new President sworn in who once said he didn't want the job and then failed in his bid for nomination when he changed his mind. Then Sunday the unbelievable sequel in which the accused assassin was murdered.

This action against Oswald is one President Kennedy would have abhorred. Perhaps Oswald was guilty of the assassination. Law enforcement officials say the web of evidence had been woven to exclude any reasonable doubt. But the act made a mockery before the world of the essence of American justice—this evidence was not weighed and judged by a jury in a court of law. This is a country which has preached to its own citizens and to the rest of the world that individual rights demand that every man, no matter how heinous his crime, must be given a chance to defend himself before a jury of his peers. In fact it is the responsibility of the state to prove to these peers that the man is guilty — in the case of murder such

as the President's, even if the man admits the crime. Lee Oswald did not.

The killing of Oswald also killed some of the ideal of American justice. It was a return to the lynch law.

Some of the shame of the act may be removed if a continued investigation piles up more proof that Oswald actually did kill the President. Justice will not have been served, but at least the country will have some consolation from the certainty that an innocent man wasn't executed.

The cause of human rights and civilized society have been set back in an act which did no honor to the memory of President Kennedy.

True, it was apparently the act of one man, but it is a black reflection on the whole American principle of justice.

The assassination of the President was a sickening thing. President Kennedy probably would have looked on the death of his accused assassin as even more sickening. An apostle of civil rights, he would have been appalled at this bridging of the right to trial and defense.

We have lost this President in a terrible incident. And that loss has been compounded by a loss of a little of our self respect in the eyes of the world. We can well hope our consciences can be relieved somewhat by the ultimate proof that Oswald was a guilty man. But more importantly we should renew our unqualified support of a system of equal justice before the law to all men. It's the backbone of our strength and freedom.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Double Bathtubs Are Newest Rage

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The spirit of togetherness appears to have hit a new peak of sorts in Great Britain.

According to a news item published here the other day, a manufacturer in that country has started producing a double bathtub. It's all the rage, my dear.

Actually, only four have been sold thus far, but I think you'll agree that four double bathtubs add up to a rage.

In one model the bathers sit side-by-side and in another toe-to-toe. Trust the British to think of something like that.

It induces sleep in infants by making sounds like a mother's breast," says the literature I received. "It feels like it, looks like it. All battery operated."

Sounds like a wonderful product.

A couple of years ago, Neiman-Marcus of Dallas offered its customers "his" and "hers" airplanes. And this year, I hear it has been featuring "his" and "hers" dueling pistols.

But neither, to my notion, is in the class with "his" and "hers" bathtubs. Which goes to show how truly ingenious the British are.

A bit over-sexed perhaps, but ingenious.

Double bathtubs would not, of course, be practical in every home. For example, mine. If we attempted togetherness of this type we would wind up in a divorce court.

I like to bathe in the morning. She takes her bath at night. I like a shower. She prefers immersion. I bathe in water that is barely tepid. She likes it scalding hot.

A double bathtub at our house would just be a waste of water. Nevertheless, I salute the British for creative thinking.

There has been a tendency in some quarters lately to sell the Empire short. This should put an end to talk that Britain is about finished as a world power.

Any country that could produce the RAF in one generation and double bathtubs in the next will always be a factor to reckon with.

While I'm about it, I would also like to tip my hat to the Japanese, who have recently developed a device called a "mother's heart."

"It induces sleep in infants by making sounds like a mother's breast," says the literature I received. "It feels like it, looks like it. All battery operated."

Sounds like a wonderful product.

Oregon Too Has Known Assassination Threats

By ZAN STARK
SALEM (UPI) — It is difficult for normal, law-abiding citizens to comprehend the abuse, threats and vandalism that is directed at high public officials.

The nation will not soon recover from the horror of Friday, Nov. 22, 1963.

And Oregonians may not want to admit such a tragedy could occur here.

But it could. It almost has. The security guard placed around the home of Gov. Mark Hatfield has been the subject of much public abuse.

But that security guard was the direct result of a nearly tragic chain of events.

The guard force was established immediately after the legislature unanimously approved a resolution charging the state police with the duty of providing security for the governor and his family.

That resolution was adopted but a few days after a dozen shots were fired at the Hatfield house by a frustrated welfare recipient. One of the bullets smashed through the trunk of the governor's car, which was parked alongside the house. The incident occurred about 30 minutes after the governor, his wife, and children left the front yard.

Twelve months ago the Federal Bureau of Investigation and state police investigated a threat on Hatfield's life.

Before Hatfield's house was placed under 24-hour guard, it was periodically the scene of vandalism.

Every week the governor's office receives violent mail or telephone calls.

Not all this insanity is directed at Hatfield.

Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. recently was rousted out of bed by an early telephone call.

The caller threatened to kill Appling.

It was not an unusual incident. Appling said he has forced himself to "live with" such threats.

"People have no idea of the harassment directed at public officials," Appling reflected recently.

Public officials know too that one act of violence always triggers a stream of harassment.

States that provide an executive mansion for their governor also provide, as an accepted matter of course, a security force.

But in Oregon, when such a guard was provided for Hatfield, it drew special attention. It was a change from the normal pattern.

Every time special mention was made of the security force, Hatfield became defensive. Few realized why.

Every time the guards were mentioned, there was another flurry of harassment.

State police, aware of how one act of violence can trigger more insanity, wasted no time Friday rushing another officer to the Capitol Building.

State police monitored calls to the governor's office.

By the nature of their self-chosen jobs, most public officials automatically steel their "public" lives so they are emotionally immune to cranks, threats, and normal partisan political abuse.

But in a relaxed off-guard moment within the sanctity of their homes — a threatening telephone call can have a shattering emotional effect.

Not only on the public official, but on his wife and children as well.

Violence seldom results. But history is pocked with the tragic exceptions.



WASHINGTON WINDOW

Elderly Speaker Next In Succession Ranks

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International
Two very old men riding high on the congressional seniority system stand ready now to take over the White House if President Lyndon B. Johnson should not survive his present term in office.

The old men are Speaker John W. McCormack, D-Mass., 72, and Sen. Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., 86. By the 1945 Congressional Act of Succession, they would succeed in that order to the presidency if both a president and a vice president were dead or unable to function.

The congressional seniority system has done well by both of these men. McCormack has been in Congress 36 years. Hayden 51. They acquired committee status and chairmanships and finally McCormack became head of the legislative branch as speaker and Hayden was elected president pro tempore of the Senate. The seniority system will accomplish about as much for any congressman who lives long enough.

If the seniority system is an improper method of selecting congressional committee chairmen, how much more unsuitable may it be as a method for selecting a president of the United States? The present succession was established after Harry S. Truman succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. At that time the succession had gone to the secretary of state if the vice president had been unavailable.

State secretary then was Edward R. Stettinius Jr., a former board chairman of U. S. Steel Corporation who in 1940 had joined FDR's win the war administration in a minor capacity. The thought of an outsider succeeding to the presidency and all of its political powers was almost paralyzing to the practical politicians of the Democratic party.

The 1945 succession act took care of that future generations but did not much improve the overall situation. It is no reflection on a pair of elder statesmen to suggest that their ages tend to disqualify them for the presidency. Neither is it unfair to suggest that the seniority system is a misfit at picking the best men available in Congress to serve as president.

NEWS COMMENTARY

Here's The Story On New President

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
Memo to various world leaders:
You will want to know about the new President of the United States, what kind of man he is and the foreign policy the United States will follow under his leadership.

Many of you already have met this tall Texan who as vice president travelled about the world on missions in behalf of President Kennedy.

First, Nikita Khrushchev: There were reports from high Communist diplomats in London over the weekend that you were deeply disturbed that a change now may be made in U. S. strategy.

You first met Johnson in Washington a couple of years ago and it's probable you didn't make a good impression. Your greeting to Johnson was recalled thusly: "I do not know you, but I have read all your speeches and I do not like any of them."

Berlin Speech
In that case, you surely recall a speech Johnson made before the West Berlin Parliament in August, 1961, just after erection of the Berlin Wall. He said: "To the survival and to the creative future of this city, we Americans have pledged, in effect, what your ancestors pledged in forming the United States: 'Our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.'"

That means there will be no lack of U. S. determination to continue to defend allied rights in West Berlin.

Mao Tse-tung of Red China: You recall a visit Johnson made to Formosa and to South-east Asia.

In Formosa, Johnson told Chiang Kai-shek that the United States "has no intention of recognizing the Peking regime" and opposes "seating the Peking regime in the United Nations."

And you also must remember what Johnson said in the Philippines. He said there that "we will continue to honor our obligations and will proceed either alone or with our free world friends to preserve our position in Asia."

Additional Aid
After Johnson got home from that trip he recommended that an additional \$100 million be set aside for economic and military aid to go primarily to South

Viet Nam, Thailand and Pakistan.

Not much comfort for the Red Chinese there.

President Charles de Gaulle: President Kennedy opposed your determination to build an independent French nuclear force. He did not like your veto of British membership in the European Common Market. You also called for "a true Atlantic community with common institutions." He told you that instead of French nuclear forces, NATO needed to reinforce its non-nuclear defense.

Joint memo to Prime Minister Nehru of India and President Mohammad Ayub Khan of Pakistan: You must remember the man's humanities. With Nehru he discussed hunger, illiteracy and disease and how they could be eliminated.

In your country, Ayub Khan, he met a simple camel driver who later became his guest in the United States.

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of The News-Review

40 YEARS AGO
Nov. 26, 1923
Needless continuation of the wartime bread saving habits is limiting American wheat consumption to the disadvantage of both the producer and consumer, says the federal Department of Agriculture. It calls for a return to pre-war habits, so more wheat will be used.

Road construction in Douglas County is expected to continue at full speed despite the fact all money voted by county residents so far is exhausted. More road taxing districts are calling for special taxes which are drawing area support. Included are the Edenbower Road District, which has voted a 10-mill tax to continue the paving to Garden Valley.

The Riddle City Council has decided to authorize the purchase of Cedar Grove property on the Azalea river for a park.

25 YEARS AGO
Nov. 26, 1938
Complaints were voiced at yesterday's county budget hearing against so-called "chislers" on relief who refuse to work. The relief and old-age assistance budget for 1939 has been increased \$11,000.

Plans have been made to exhibit the Dionne quintuplets at the 1939 Worlds Fair in New York.

Henry Armstrong, the Negro boxer, was described today as a "legend" after his beating of Cerefino Garcia last night. He now holds both the lightweight and welterweight titles.

10 YEARS AGO
Nov. 26, 1953
Ground-breaking for the major construction phase of the Seventh-day Adventists' million-dollar academy at Millo is scheduled Dec. 3.

A county-wide project "operation Christmas cheer" has been organized by the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce to provide a clearinghouse for organizations giving Christmas baskets to the needy.

Grants Pass is scheduled to meet Central Catholic next weekend in the state football playoffs.

-In The Day's News-

By FRANK JENKINS

Shocking fact:
In our relatively brief career as a nation, FOUR of our Presidents have been assassinated. In the centuries-long career of the Roman Empire, there were only two assassinations:
Julius Caesar by Brutus.
Mad Caligula by the officers of his own guard.

Brutus allowed himself to be drawn into the plot to murder Caesar — who, he thought, was reaching for supreme power. He hoped by killing Caesar to save a republican government in Rome. He was a hero to many Romans who believed, as did Brutus, that republican government was in danger.

Caligula, in the first eight months of his reign, made himself popular by his mildness and acts of justice. Then, when he had a firm hold on the republic, he lost his mental balance. He became cruel and vindictive, killing and torturing many persons. He considered himself a god, and had a temple built in his own honor. He declared his horse Incitatus to be consul.

He was murdered by the officers of his own guard, who regarded his slaying as an act of patriotism.

Our four martyred Presidents have been murdered by CRACKPOTS.

On April 14, 1865, after a long cabinet meeting at which he had urged conciliation of the defeated Confederacy, Lincoln went to Ford's Theater to seek relaxation. John Wilkes Booth, an actor and a fanatic, stole into the box behind the President and shot him in the head.

He then leaped down to the stage, waving a dagger and shouting "Sic semper tyrannis (So be it to tyrants). In springing from the box to the stage, his foot was caught in an American flag and his leg was broken.

He escaped by the rear of the theater, reached a horse that was saddled and waiting for him and fled into Virginia, where he was caught in a barn near Bowling Green. On his refusal to surrender, the barn was set fire to and it is believed he shot himself.

Our next martyr was President Garfield. While waiting for a train in Washington to take him to Williams College, he was shot by C. J. Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker. He was shot on July 2. The shot was not immediately fatal. Garfield lingered on until September 19, when he died.

On September 6, 1901, while holding a public reception in the Temple of Music at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, President McKinley was shot by an anarchist named Czolgosz, who approached the unsuspecting President with a pistol concealed under a handkerchief that appeared to cover an injured hand.

For several days, his condition held out some hope of recovery, but a week later he became suddenly worse and died.

There comes now the assassination of President Kennedy.

A suspect has been arrested. He is Lee Oswald. He is a former Marine — with a dishonorable discharge. He is a pro-Castro Marxist. He once sought citizenship in communist Russia.

He follows the historic pattern of American assassins. Without exception, they have been crackpots.

That suggests a thought for those of us who have not agreed politically with some of our Presidents. Perhaps we have been TOO PARTISAN. Perhaps our partisanship has been unintentionally carried TOO FAR.

We can make the necessary rationalizations. We can make cracks about the man in the White House without meaning anything disrespectful to the President of the United States. Perhaps the crackpots CAN'T.

At least, it's worth some serious thinking on our part.

Reader Opinions

Human Understanding May Become Greater

To The Editor:
The flag was flying at half mast at the high school Friday. Students came into class after lunch, their faces showing the disbelief and shock which every person felt. Even the crowded halls were quiet. Students sat down quietly in my classroom. There was no bounce or banter in the group of disillusioned young people. The first statement made relieved the tension and started a fast flow of conversation:

"Why just think, we have lived to see the President of the United States murdered!"

The thought came to me that of course, these girls were not yet born when the whole world listened to the moving voice of President Roosevelt as he made his ominous declaration of war. To these students, this was their first real brush with man's inhumanity to man. Reactions came quickly and the first was:

"I hope they find the killer and lynch him!"

Immediately this statement was challenged.

"No! The President of the United States stands for law and order. He should have a fair trial like any other terrible criminal."

Comments came fast and with conviction from many students, all of whom seemed to suddenly realize that they were a part of this difficult world. I could almost feel them changing. The discussion ended as abruptly as it had begun with the simple and forthright statement by a student:

"We are all worked up over this awful thing, and everyone is talking and thinking about it, but we see death and read of murders almost every day, yet, in the sight of God, every man is equal."

This statement stood unrefuted. I thought that perhaps the flag, now drooping in the gray windless day, might again fly in the breeze of greater human understanding and more consideration of man for man.

Georgene H. Clark
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