

Commonwealth Sorrowed by Death of King



LONDON—Britain lost a king, gained a new queen and hailed a new prospective Prince of Wales Wednesday. The photo of King George VI, with his daughter, the new Queen Elizabeth, was one of the last ever taken of the pair together, shortly before Elizabeth left on her current world tour. The inset shows Prince Charles, son of Elizabeth and her husband, Prince Philip, taken on his recent birthday. He is expected some day to be Prince of Wales. (AP Wirephoto by radio from London.)

25-Year-Old Queen Elizabeth Dries Her Eyes, Hastens Home to Assume Duties as Sovereign

NAIROBI, Kenya Colony (AP)—The slight, 25-year-old Princess who has trained since childhood for the responsibilities of the British Crown headed home sorrowfully as a Queen Wednesday night to take up the royal duties left her by her father's sudden death.

Princess Elizabeth burst into tears when her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, broke the news from London of the death of King George VI, but soon regained her composure.

"She was every inch a queen," a source at the royal lodge told

reporters.

Cutting short a projected five-month, 30,000-mile royal tour that was to have taken them on to Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand and other British territory, Elizabeth and the Duke are going home by plane.

The couple flew from Nairobi to Entebbe, Uganda, Wednesday night and transferred there to a four-engined Argonaut liner.

Britain's first woman ruler since Victoria reigned 51 years ago, is due to reach London at 4:30 p. m. Thursday.

It was only last Thursday that

she left London, bidding goodbye to the King after earnestly scanning his tired, lined face. She and the Duke were substituting for him on the tour because of the ill health that had plagued him in recent years. Elizabeth and her husband left their two children, Charles and Anne, at home.

Prince Charles, 3, becomes heir apparent to the throne. Because he now is first in line for the throne after his mother, Prince Charles outranks his father in matters of precedence. Queen Elizabeth II could, and

is expected to, name Edinburgh "Prince Consort" by "letters patent" and rank him second to the Queen—ahead of little Charles.

Since she was 10, Elizabeth has been specially schooled to take the throne some day if necessary. On her 21st birthday, as heiress presumptive, she dedicated her life to the Empire.

Elizabeth II is a great-great-great-granddaughter of George III, the sovereign in whose reign the American colonies separated themselves, by rebellion, from the British Empire

in the eighteenth century.

The line of descent is George III to Edward, his fourth son, to Queen Victoria, to Edward VII, to George V, to George VI, father of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth is the 62nd sovereign of Britain since Egbert became King of Wessex and England in 827 A. D. and the 42nd since William the Conqueror. In two cases, those of Ethelred and Ethelbert in 858 and of William and Mary in 1689, two sovereigns ruled jointly.

She is the seventh reigning Queen in British history.

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King George Dies in Sleep

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

Once again it is Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. The sudden death of King George VI cut short the tour of his daughter and propelled her to the throne of the kingdom. His serious illness had served as warning to the country, however, and Elizabeth was preparing herself for the royal duties she now must assume.

Since the days of the Stuarts the power of the reigning monarch in England has been greatly curtailed. Rule by divine right is a mere historic shibboleth now. Britain is fully self-governing, with power lodged in the elected representatives (the Commons) completely since the last Labor government wiped out the last vestige of veto power retained by the House of Lords.

But while the king or queen is theoretically only the symbol to unite the peoples and countries of the Commonwealth, in practice the ruler may exercise considerable influence on the course of events. It was King George himself who by request rather than command restrained Prime Minister Churchill from being in on the invasion of France on D-day. In more important matters it is quite probable that the royal opinion is consulted. The ruler is kept fully informed of the affairs of state. He is shorn of real power, however, Edward, Duke of Windsor, when king, complied with the pressure of Prime Minister Baldwin that he abdicate if he was determined to marry "that woman"; and Edward assented rather than provoke a constitutional crisis. The Crown yielded to Commons (and to the Archbishop of Canterbury).

Of Queen Elizabeth it is safe to say that she will conform to (Continued on editorial page, 4.)



LONDON—A weeping woman and a sad-faced schoolgirl were among the sorrowing Londoners in Downing Street after announcement of the death of King George VI. News of the king's death shocked the nation, which had been deeply worried about his health. Lower photo shows a grieving crowd gathering early this morning at Buckingham Palace. The palace blinds were drawn as Britain went into mourning. The king died at his country residence, Sandringham. (AP Wirephotos by radio from London.)

Chicago Political Chief Shot to Death

CHICAGO (AP)—Charles Gross, 55, acting Republican committeeman in the 31st ward, was shot to death Wednesday night at Kedzie and North Avenues on the North Side.

Gross was felled by shotgun blasts from a parked car, which sped away after the shooting.

Gross had just alighted from his auto to purchase a newspaper.

Police said his widow, Ethel, commented, "I was afraid of this," but would not enlarge on the statement.

Lid off Popcorn

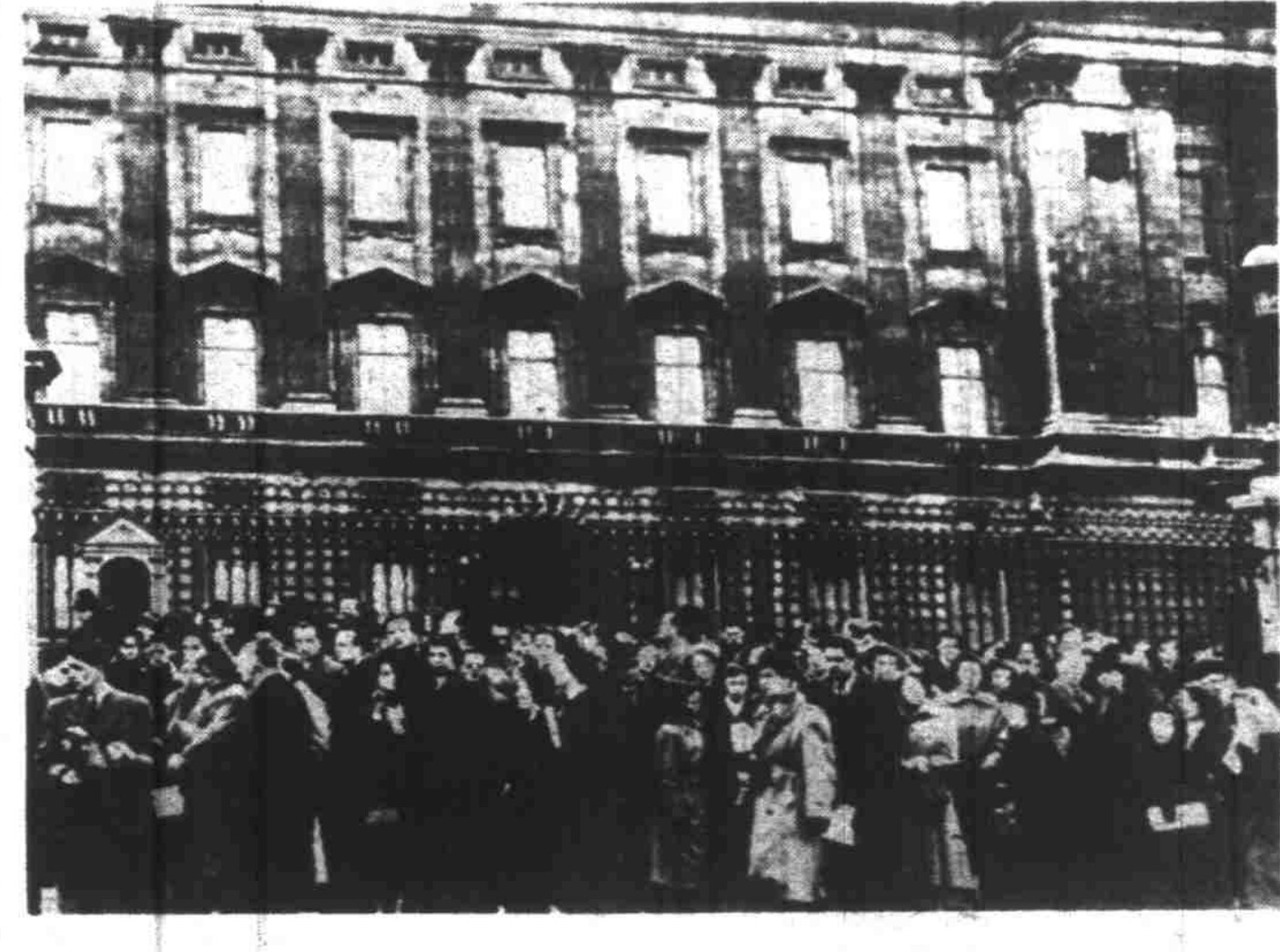
WASHINGTON (AP)—Popcorn popped out of control Wednesday night. The OPS pulled the price lid off the delicacy. It said there is no inflationary pressure in this 50 million dollars a year industry.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Don't be crude, Wilbur, I can't say grace until I've delivered the funeral oration!"



U.N. Cuts PW Plan Demands

MUNSAN, Korea (AP)—U. N. command negotiators Thursday dropped their demand that excess prisoners of war in Allied hands be exchanged for displaced civilians now in Communist territory.

Under the original proposal, the Allies wanted to exchange prisoners of war on a man-for-man basis. The Reds had said they held 11,559 Allied troops.

Then the Allies wanted to exchange the rest of the Red troops they hold—some 1,000—for displaced civilians in Communist hands.

While staff officers now negotiating the prisoner exchange issue gave ground on the POW-civilian swap, they held firm to the principle of voluntary repatriation. They insist that no one can be sent back to the other side against his wishes.

The Allies made no reply to a new Communist peace plan which ignored South Korea and injected Formosa and other tense Far Eastern issues into final settlement of the Korean War.

Ike Campaign Official Visits Salem Men

Wes Roberts, executive director of the Eisenhower-For-President organization, was in Salem Wednesday, fresh from national headquarters in Washington, D. C.

He conferred with several local Republicans, including William L. Phillips, chairman of the Oregon Eisenhower-For-President group and Rep. Mark Hatfield, its executive secretary.

Roberts left for Portland Wednesday night. He had no comment to make regarding the attorney general's opinion that only a court order or sponsors' withdrawal could remove Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's name from the Democratic primary ballot in Oregon.

Roberts is a former Republican state chairman in Kansas, the general's home state.

Bloodmobile in Salem Today

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the downtown Army in Salem today from noon to 5 p. m., Red Cross official report.

There are approximately 174 signed up for donating blood on this visit which, according to the local office, is below the needed quota.

LEO CARILLO ILL

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Screen and television actor Leo Carillo underwent surgery Wednesday and will remain at Santa Monica Hospital for five or six days, his physician said.

Spell-Down!

The following words are among those which may be used in the 1952 Oregon Statesman-KSLM Spelling Contest semifinals and finals. They are from standard textbooks and are published as a guide in intra-school contests now underway.

miner	Christmas director
pneumonia	excitement
orchard	gown
quandary	frighten
provide	influence
section	honorary
respectfully	mourn
weather	lawyer
total	anxiety

Runaway Boxcars Speed 17 Miles, Crash at Town

HEPPNER, Ore. (AP)—Two railroad freight cars broke loose on a downgrade Wednesday and rolled unimpeded down a spur line for 17 miles, picking up speed all the way, until they flashed into the town of Heppner.

There station master William Bering, warned by telegraph, threw a switch that derailed the cars with a resounding crash.

Wheel trucks flew off and lumber, which was loaded on the steel cars, was scattered far. There were no damages to anything, though, except the two cars.

There was no accurate estimate of their speed when they raced into Heppner, but one motorist on the road between Heppner and Lone said they passed him when he was doing 80 miles an hour.

They broke loose from a train while it was switching cars at the Heppner Lumber Co., here. The engineer put the train in reverse in an attempt to catch the runaways, but he was left far behind. There is an 815-foot drop in elevation between Heppner and Lone.

Nearly the same thing happened 11 years ago. Then two empty passenger cars broke loose at Heppner. That time they got through Lone and rolled 40 miles, getting within 7 miles of the main Union Pacific track along the Columbia River, before being derailed.

Elizabeth Flying to London

LONDON (AP)—King George VI died in his sleep Wednesday, and as the British Empire mourned, the new Queen Elizabeth II sorrowfully hurried home from Africa to take the throne of Britain and to bury the father she loved.

It will be just one week since she set out, as Princess Elizabeth, to carry of the royal name around the world on a tour designed to strengthen the bonds of the Commonwealth. She was in Kenya, Africa, when she received the word that she had become Queen in the early hours of Wednesday when death took George VI, 56, in his sleep at Sandringham Castle.

Brannan Fires Officials In Grain Shortage Case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary Brannan fired two regional officials of the Agriculture department Wednesday for "administrative deficiencies and inadequacies" which he related to losses of government grain stored in commercial warehouses.

The ousted officials are Latham White, director, and Harry James Solomon, assistant director, of the department's commodity office at Dallas, Tex.

Clear Weather Curbs Rivers

Willamette Valley streams and morning temperatures have dropped in the face of a continued Spring-like weather—more of which is predicted for today.

The Marion County approach to the Willamette River bridge at Independence, however, remained flooded early today. The Willamette had receded to about 16 feet at Salem this morning and was reported to be dropping steadily.

Arrival of a storm for western Oregon loomed for a time on the weatherman's chart early Wednesday. But by late Wednesday night the prediction for today changed to a continuing of the mild weather, which saw a sub-freezing mercury reading of 30 Wednesday morning.

The State Highway Commission reported the Wilsonville Ferry continued out of operation Wednesday due to high water. All other state highways were reported open.

THE WEATHER

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	54	39	.00
Portland	55	35	.00
San Francisco	42	30	.00
Chicago	31	28	.02
New York	44	35	.00

Willamette River 16.2 feet
FORECAST from U. S. Weather Bureau, McNary Field, Salem: Partly cloudy today and tonight. Little temperature change. High today, 53 to low tonight, 35 to 37. Salem temperature at 12:01 a. m. today was 38.

SALEM PRECIPITATION		
Since Start of Weather Year	Sept. 1	Normal
This Year	32.90	39.14
Last Year	39.14	23.81

Steelmen Say 'Fringe Benefits' Triple Union's Pay Demands

NEW YORK (AP)—The steel industry argued Wednesday that "fringe benefits" sought by CIO steel workers cloaked a wage demand of close to 60 cents an hour—or more than triple the straight pay increase the union is asking.

The union is demanding an 18½ cent-an-hour pay rise. Industry spokesmen said demanded fringe benefits—increased rates for holidays, vacation, overtime, premiums for working at night and similar items—would cost an additional 39.69 cents.

Spokesman for steel also contended that the union demand for elimination of geographical differences in pay, if granted, would upset the nation's entire economy and price the Southern industry out of the market.

The arguments were presented before a Wage Stabilization Board panel which is attempting to resolve a contract dispute and stave off a threatened Feb. 23 strike of 650,000 steel workers.

John H. Morse, counsel for the Bethlehem Steel Corp., led the industry's attack on the union "fringe demands."

He said they would cost 39.69 cents an hour in addition to the 18½-cent general wage demand, for an overall increase of about 58 cents an hour.

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John H. Morse, counsel for the Bethlehem Steel Corp., led the industry's attack on the union "fringe demands."

He said they would cost 39.69 cents an hour in addition to the 18½-cent general wage demand, for an overall increase of about 58 cents an hour.