

Trading of Honors an Old Custom With U.S., Britain

By W. B. RAGSDALE JR.
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Great Britain and America have been trading honors and gifts ever since tempers cooled from the war of 1812, but there's never been anything like the fuss over Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston S. Churchill.

The British piled honors on Gen. Eisenhower after he led the allies to victory over Hitler's Germany in World War II. He received honorary degrees galore and was made freeman of Edinburgh, Scotland, and the ancient Burgh of Maypole.

King George VI proclaimed Eisenhower a grand knight of the bath, and Scotland gave him a permanent home—a 160-year-old castle and 2,000 acres of shooting preserves in Ayrshire. Churchill received many honorary degrees and other honors in America. When Eisenhower became President he struck off a special medal to honor Britain's World War II prime minister.

Now Congress has voted to make the 88-year-old Churchill an honorary citizen of the United States—first man to be so honored in U.S. history.

Churchill, already half American on his mother's side, will be looking on from across the ocean Tuesday when President Kennedy signs the measure. The ceremonies will be beamed to England by the relay satellite.

Apparently, all Churchill will have to show for the honor will be a certificate from the President. He won't be able to vote in our elections, and he won't be given a castle, or even a house. But then he won't have to pay American income taxes, either.

Americans hold Churchill in the highest regard of any foreigner since the Marquis de Lafayette joined them in their fight for independence from the British in 1776.

And until now Lafayette was the last man to be voted American citizenship of any sort by legislative act as thanks for helping America in an hour of crisis.

In December 1784, the Maryland General Assembly decreed that Lafayette and "his male heirs forever" were to be considered "natural-born citizens" of Maryland.

The General Assembly of Virginia granted Lafayette Virginia citizenship in 1785.

And when the constitution of the United States was ratified in 1789, Lafayette, along with other citizens of the original 13 states, became a citizen of the United States.

Despite their high regard for the aristocratic Lafayette, citizens of the new republic generally despised royalty and titles. The constitution provided:

"No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States;

and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them shall, without the consent of Congress, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever, from any king, prince or foreign state."

In 1810 Congress proposed an amendment which would have expanded the scope of this ban to all U.S. citizens, and added loss of citizenship as a penalty. This amendment failed by one state of obtaining the required three-fourths approval for ratification.

The constitutional ban was formalized by law in 1881, and the state department now has a warehouse full of gifts to American officials from foreign governments. These include decorations, jewels, watches, all sorts of things.

Private citizens, however, are free to accept any and all gifts and titles from foreign governments.

More than 80 living Americans, in addition to Eisenhower,

Measure Killed

SALEM, ORE.—A bill to repeal the 1961 utility service district law has been killed by the House Committee on Commerce and Utilities. The law lets utilities divide up territory into exclusive districts. The committee also killed a bill to create a state power commission to buy and sell electric energy.

have been knighted by British monarchs. But they don't, and can't under American law, call themselves "Sir."

Along with Eisenhower, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Gen. James H. Doolittle are knights grand cross of the bath.

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and movie actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. are knight commanders of the British Empire, ranking below the knights of the bath.

The President can't tap anybody on the shoulder and dub him knight. He has no such titles to confer, but he can bestow decorations to foreigners—mainly military.

The Medal of Freedom is the top honor for foreigners, and it also is awarded Americans. It was renamed the Presidential Medal of Freedom last February by President Kennedy and a new design will be struck for it.

The Legion of Merit is a military award for foreigners which is awarded by the secretary of defense with the concurrence of the secretary of state.

For the highest of the four degrees of the Legion of Merit—chief commander—the President also is consulted. This normally goes only to heads of state or chiefs of government.

Often the President has a personal gift for the visiting dignitary along with the decoration. In 1960, Eisenhower planned to give Soviet Premier Khrushchev a fancy motor boat when he visited Russia. The boat at U2 incident and the resulting collapse of the summit caused the trip to be cancelled. The boat eventually was returned to the manufacturer.

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All merchandise moved to Main Store

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Ceiling Tile 16x32", Reg. 9.45	now ctn. 7.25

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3-Pc. Sectional 4 only left	\$298
4-Pc. Bedroom Sets 7 only left	\$158
5-Pc. Dinette Sets 4 only left	\$58
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8x9' HW Tent Reg. 69.95	now 49.88
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