

Capital Journal

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Franco's Monarchial Gesture

Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain has sent a decree to the Cortes declaring the nation still a monarchy despite his eight years reign as fascist dictator, evidently opening the way for a restoration of a king. Entitling Franco "chief of state" the bill would give the holder of that post the right to propose his own successor any time he desired and specified that "a council of the kingdom" would advise the chief of state on the succession.

Designed to provide a governmental head for Spain's 26-000,000 population in the event of the chief of state's death or incapacitation, the decree also provided for a council of regency to rule in the interim. The regency would summon the council of the kingdom to meet within three days to elect a successor. The Cortes then would have to ratify the council's choice by a two-thirds majority vote.

The chief of state, the decree stipulated, must be a king or, in the event there was no person of royal blood who qualified under the law, a regent. The king under the decree, would have to be Spanish, a male, at least 30 years of age and a Roman Catholic.

Alfonso XIII, the late king, left Spain in 1931 and died 10 years later in exile. He never renounced the throne. The chief claimant to the throne would be Don Juan, Alfonso's son and crown prince. The council of the regency would be composed of the president of the Cortes, the Catholic primate of Spain and the captain-general of the army, the president of the council of state, the president of the supreme court, the president of the Spanish institute and a delegation of deputies of the Cortes, representing syndicates, municipal and provisional government, professional associations and other members of the Cortes named by the chief of state.

Spanish monarchist quarters have denounced Franco's plan as "totally unacceptable" on the following grounds:

1. It allows Franco to remain in power as chief of state for the rest of his life, if he so desires.
2. It imposes physical and legal qualifications and obligations upon any eventual monarch.
3. It provides for preservation of the Franco regime's work, such as the Falange and the Franco laws.

Franco has been under fire ever since the World War for his aid to Hitler and his fascist tendencies. He has been assailed by the United Nations and his latest gesture is for political effect on the anti-communist bloc and a retention of his dictatorship.

"The Only Party Fit to Govern" Flops

The republican party is not living up to its old-time slogan as the "only party fit to govern" either in congress or in the Oregon legislature, where it has no opposition. It won a smashing victory in November at the polls and control of both houses of congress, but the public reaction has already set-in because of failure to live up to campaign promises and lack of leadership. This is reflected in the Gallup and other polls revealing the fact that republican inaction and the president's actions have increased the popularity of Mr. Truman who was regarded as down and out a brief time ago.

Except for the passage of the act banning portal to portal pay nothing has come out of promised labor legislation, a job handled by Senator Taft himself, as party leader. Labor leaders have been obstructionists and some of the new republicans have been off the reservations, while the democrats have kept hands off.

Tax reduction has been a farce because promises were based on lack of information and the party leadership has been stumbling as facts were disclosed. The house rushed through a tax slashing bill of from 20 to 30 percent, but it has been pigeon-holed in the senate. The uncertainty thereby engendered has not helped either business or the republicans.

The Lillenthal affair has been dragged out indefinitely, managed by a democratic demagogue with a personal grudge. Atomic energy control is too vital a subject to play politics with. It should have been settled long ago, and either Lillenthal or some one else should have been selected. No one man is indispensable and time moves on with crisis after crisis faced by the United Nations.

Presidential politics have gummed the cards as the numerous candidates jockeyed for position at the expense of the nation and party. Only Stassen of the aspirants has been above board and hewed to the line, and public disgust with the tactics of others may make him a formidable candidate. Unless there is a change in party tactics at Washington the republicans are likely to defeat themselves in 1948.

Sugar Rationing Continues

In an eleventh hour action, sugar rationing has gained a new seven months lease on life, but President Truman, fearful of "disastrous consequences" from such a short extension has announced that he might seek longer controls. The sugar act which also carries sugar price control to October 31, was approved by congress along with a 90-day extension of the president's power to parcel out a sharply trimmed list of industrial, drug and food items. The entire sugar and allocation program is thus prevented from lapsing, as the recent war services act expired last midnight, save for the few controls thus salvaged.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson takes over the program in line with congress' mandate relieving the OPA of the job. No change in sugar rations or regulation will be made for the present he announces, but he set up a new "sugar rationing" administration in the department made up of OPA's former sugar staff.

The act provides 20 pounds of sugar a person for the next seven months, or an annual rate of 35 pounds, 10 pounds more than last year. It sets aside 50,000 tons for new industrial users, and continues inventory controls until next March 31, to prevent big industrial users from hoarding supplies once coupon rationing ends.

The biggest question remaining is whether grain, rice, meat and other agricultural products could continue to be parceled out for domestic, military and foreign consumption. They were not singled out by name as were tin, antimony, freight cars, cordage, chinchona bark for quinine and the drug streptomycin.

24 Oregon Conchies To Get Releases

Portland, April 1 (AP)—Release of 24 conscientious objectors held in Oregon camps will be ordered now that selective service has ended, Col. E. V. Wootton reported.

The Oregon selective service director said 40 Oregon men

held elsewhere in the country would be released simultaneously. He reported one man is stationed at the Cascade Locks CPS camp, four at Waldport, two at Elkton and 17 at Lapine. During the war, 311 Oregon men were classified as objectors. Since, 252 have been released.

The highest stone in an arch is known as a keystone; the lowest, a springer.

Popular People

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Saw County Commissioner Roy Rice shove a cigar in his pocket this morning as he started out on a road trip, some having been left on his desk by an ill-intentioned friend. Boy, would we have liked to have been in seeing range somewhere when he lighted same. We hope no serious injury was sustained.

Biggest April fool joke of the day was workmen digging a ditch along the edge of the courthouse lawn and fooling people into thinking they were starting excavation for a new courthouse when they were only getting ready to sink some underground irrigation pipes.

Incidentally J. C. Perry, the well known druggist, got a nice

bouquet of flowers today from John Caughell. Reason, J. C. started his drugstore on April 1, 1904, and the bouquet was a little reminder of the fact. Added reason, John Caughell was also born on April 1, 1904, both of the boys starting in business on that day, as it were. April 1 must be a nice day for a birthday, having to be suspicious of every package that shows up in the shape of a birthday gift.

We were reminiscing a little this a.m., remembering how the late Frank Myers, when owner of the Spa never let an April 1 go by without having a liberal supply of extra special candy turned out in his candy kitchen same being loaded with all of the various indelicacies Frank could think up. That was one day he was very liberal with his candy and the more folks he could get to nibble on a piece and then make a wry face the happier he was. We were so deeply sunk in such reminiscence that when Bob Lehman, who bought out the Spa from Frank, handed us a very luscious looking hunk of chocolate candy this a.m., we bit into same with carefree abandon and came up with a bitter mouthful of God knows what. Even if we did get took we're glad that somebody is carrying on the good old Frank Myers tradition and hope plenty of folks get a mouthful besides us.

The Salem Senator baseball team is starting off another season today but this time it is last year's team getting under way down at Los Angeles wearing Portland Beaver uniforms. We don't care much about making baseball prognostications but we'll venture one little guess, that they won't start off the season this year by winning the first 14 games, like they did last year.

Klamath Nabs One Fugitive

Klamath Falls, Ore., April 1 (AP)—One of two convicts who escaped from San Quentin prison Saturday was held for California authorities today and police began a widespread search for his companion.

Norman Jacklin, 39, Los Angeles robber, was captured last night in a running gunfight across town after he and Alfred Paine, 38, North Sacramento, Calif., murderer, robbed a service station of \$88.

Paine escaped from officers in a hail of bullets, dropped into a dry irrigation canal and disappeared. Authorities theorized he might have been wounded in the gunfire.

Police Chief Orville Hamilton speculated that Paine "might have hopped a freight out of town" or else that he took to the nearby hills.

"I figure that unless he got the freight, he tried to steal another car for the getaway," Hamilton said. "He may have made it."

Jacklin told police that after escaping from San Quentin, he and Paine stole an automobile in Petaluma, Calif., and drove it north. Then they found they were "broke and hungry," so they decided to hold up the gasoline station.

Novelties

28 Years Late

St. Joseph, Mo., April 1 (AP)—A man dropped into the office of County Collector Clifton Hulse yesterday and said he wanted to pay taxes on some property he owned—but he was 28 years too late.

Hulse checked the records, found the taxes were delinquent 30 years ago and that the property had been sold for the taxes two years later.

Heavy Sugar

Detroit, April 1 (AP)—Friends of George Bennett brought 25 pounds of small change to jail as bail money on a reckless driving charge, but Bennett didn't win his release immediately.

Police were busy for several hours counting the money—including 5,000 pennies. When they finished they had \$150, more than enough to release Bennett.

Boy Wanted to See Man Die

Aurora, Ill., April 1 (AP)—It was an overwhelming desire to "see somebody die" which drove 16-year-old Raymond Stumbaugh to shoot a stranger in the back and then calmly go home and to bed, he told police today.

The victim of his thrill shooting last Saturday night was Eugene Garnett, 49, a Western Union repairman who was working on his partially finished summer cottage here.

"I just wanted to shoot somebody and see somebody die," Stumbaugh told Sheriff Harry A. Crawford last night. Crawford questioned the youth after a routine check of licensed 22 caliber rifles revealed Stumbaugh's had been fired recently.

The boy readily admitted the shooting, and said he had intended to kill the mayor of North Aurora, Fred Kratochvil. His statement to police did not say whether he was trying to find Kratochvil when he spotted Garnett working on the cottage.

Stumbaugh fired one shot through a window of the summer house, striking Garnett in the back. The repairman crawled 75 feet and collapsed beside his automobile. He was found Sunday morning by a passing motorist.

MACKENZIE'S Column

That certainly was two-fisted language which Representative Crawford, Michigan republican, used yesterday in testifying before the house foreign affairs committee that he believes the United States should tell the Russians they must disarm or this country will use her atomic bombs and economic power against them.

The congressman conceded that such a course would mean war if the Soviet Union defied America but he said that in event of war Russia would "get licked." He added that the people of the U. S. A. "have the power to disarm the world" and should start with Russia.

Well, far be it from us to deny that we are capable of doing whatever seems necessary. Still, having taken this stand, undoubtedly all will agree that it's preferably if possible to handle this communistic world-revolution without another global conflict at arms.

War between the two most powerful nations—both with virtually unlimited resources—would be a horror which might drag along for years. True, we could create havoc with our atomic bombs, but the military experts say that major wars aren't going to be won with atomic bombs alone in this stage of the game. All other branches of the armed services would have to be brought into play, including infantry.

Bear in His Cave

Agreeing with Congressman Crawford that America would win, we should have to go into the Russian Bear's cave and drag him out by main force. And that would take some doing, for the Soviet empire occupies one-sixth of the world's land surface, and is heavily guarded in Europe by many satellite nations. Such a war would make all past conflicts look like school picnics.

That's why the United States government is trying to halt the red drive by the indirect method of giving material aid to nations which are in the path of communistic aggression. Greece and Turkey are the first to come in line for help. In this connection secret testimony was presented before the senate foreign relations committee last week, designating Turkey as the key, even more than Greece, to any move to halt the spread of communism in the Mediterranean area.

This testimony was given behind closed doors by Edwin C. Wilson, U. S. ambassador to Turkey. One senator told a reporter that Wilson's presentation was so significant that the legislator concluded the president's program is based even more on military than on political considerations. Wilson is said to have testified in effect that Turkey remains the last strong government on the Mediterranean standing up against Russia. He added that the Turks aren't able alone to foot the bill for maintaining a large army.

It is true that Turkey, and the Dardanelles strait which she controls, form a far more important base militarily than Greece. However, we can't dismiss Greece lightly, for it is a powerful bastion guarding the flank of the Turkish position. Turkey Forms Bridge

Since Turkey straddles the Dardanelles and thus embraces both European and Asiatic soil, she forms a land bridge between Europe and Asia. Indeed, if you follow your nose around the eastern Mediterranean after crossing the bridge from Europe, you eventually will arrive in Africa.

So Turkey can be said to provide a highway between three continents. And if that broad highway were thrown open to communism, there's no telling where the redism might go.

The \$150,000,000 which President Truman would allot to Turkey would be used for military purposes. The Turks are among the world's finest fighters, and it was a wholesome respect for the Turkish army (Ankara claimed that it totaled 1,000,000 bayonets) which kept Hitler from attempting to charge across from the Balkan peninsula into the Middle East.

Turkey is said to be able to mobilize a total of some 2,000,000. In event, she has sufficient effectiveness to man her powerful natural defenses along the Dardanelles, provided she has the equipment. That's where Amer-

8000 Get Free Chest Exams

The annual project of providing free chest examinations for all Marion county residents who desired the service was concluded Monday afternoon under the sponsorship of four health organizations. When three mobile chest X-ray units returned to their Portland headquarters they had filmed approximately 8000 persons. The number

ican aid would come in. It's safe to say that the Muscovites, like the Germans, would look carefully before attempting to force their way into Turkey from the Balkan peninsula.

The death of King George of Greece today injects an entirely new element into a tense situation. It's too early to forecast the effect. Much depends on the character of the little-known Prince Paul, who succeeds to the throne. However, this much can be said now:

Death has removed a weak monarch who was wholly inadequate to provide the necessary leadership in the present emergency. If the new king isn't an improvement, he isn't likely to be worse.

would have been slightly higher had not two of the units broken down for more than a day. The units cover the entire state at least once a year.

In this county the program was under the sponsorship of the Marion County Public Health association, the Marion county department of health, the Oregon Tuberculosis association and the state board of health. About half of the cost is covered by money taken in through the sale of Christmas seals. The balance is underwritten by public tax funds.

In addition to Salem, communities where the units were located included Hubbard, Aurora, Woodburn, Gervais, St. Paul, Mt. Angel, Silverton, Mill City, Stayton and Jefferson.

If trouble is indicated by examination of the first miniature films, they are returned and large 14x17-inch negatives are developed. These are sent to the Oregon Tuberculosis hospital where Dr. G. C. Bellinger and his staff read them. The persons involved are then advised to consult their own physicians.

James Watt, inventor of the modern condensing steam engine claims recognition also as the discoverer of the composition of water.

Demonstration Unit Discusses Kitchens

Hopewell—The all-day monthly meeting of the home demonstration unit was held at the Hopewell United Brethren church. Miss Marion Donaldson, Yamhill county home demonstration agent, was leader on the subject of "Making Kitchens More Livable." Lunch was served at noon.

"New Electrical Equipment" will be the subject of the next meeting, to be held at the church.

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