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## THE KING IS DEAD

For several years America and the rest of the free world have looked forward, half with hope, half with fear, to the death of Joseph Stalin, the ablest and most ruthless of a succession of Russian czars that stretched back to Ivan the Terrible.

For Stalin was in many ways a successor to the Romanoffs, who bore the title of "czar and autocrat of all the Russias" but never fulfilled the role half as thoroughly as the cobbler's son who ruled a larger, much more populous realm under a much tighter grip and played a far larger role on the world's stage.

Now the great event has taken place, suddenly. First the world knew was Tuesday night when it was announced that Stalin had suffered a stroke in his Kremlin apartment Sunday night. Thursday night he died, as might any commoner thus stricken.

There had been widespread speculation that Stalin's death would be kept secret while his chief followers battled for his mantle, but this was not done. The original announcement was withheld only two days and word of his death only a few hours.

So the worst man in the world leaves it. Never before in the long history of mankind was one person ever responsible for the deaths of so many, or of so much misery. It was Stalin who starved the Russian peasants who resisted collectivization of their farms. It was Stalin who ordered millions of his countrymen to the slave labor camps, Stalin who ordered the purges, the mass deportations.

And it was Stalin who gave Hitler the green light to start World War II, by making a pact which assured the German dictator that he would not be molested from the east while he attacked the western nations. This almost cost Stalin his own neck when Hitler turned upon him less than two years later, but didn't, thanks to American aid to Stalin.

When such a man dies the natural disposition would be to declare a holiday, toot the horns and fire the signal guns in anticipation of brighter days. Unfortunately there is no occasion for rejoicing.

As this is written the identity of Stalin's successor is not known and if it were the fact might not be too important, for struggles for power will go on for some time in Russia, till one strong man emerges on top of the bones of his rivals.

But this much is known. He will be a communist, committed to the world revolution followed by Russian mastery of the world, as ruthless as Stalin himself, though perhaps not as cautious.

Stalin played a slow, careful game, confident of the ultimate result, not impatient about whether it came in his own lifetime or not. So while there was constant threat of another world war it did not come in Stalin's time.

The new master of Russia may not be so patient. He may see the need of a new war to rally the support of the Russian people around him and thus eliminate danger of overthrow by his enemies within Russia. Dictators have often resorted to war for this purpose.

So America cannot afford to rejoice that the world today contains one less major villain. The king is dead all right, but another waits in the wings to stride upon the stage, as cruel, as arrogant as the last.

This is a time for America and her allies to keep their powder dry while they anxiously wait for the coming Russian pattern, with all its deadly potentialities for us, to take shape.

## DEATH TOLL OF PEACE GREATER THAN WAR

The Association of Casualty and Surety Companies which keeps count of traffic accidents and deaths in the nation reports that 36 civilians are injured in motor vehicle accidents for every U. S. serviceman wounded in battle in Korea.

It states that over the two and one-half years of war in Korea, official Department of Defense figures listed 93,000 servicemen in the wounded column of the casualty lists. For the same period of time, the association reports that injured victims of automobile accidents totaled 3,350,000, or 3,602 percent more than those injured in battle.

The association, which first discovered that the millionth victim of the automobile would die in December, 1951, took a daily average for the 30 months since the Korean war began and found that 102 servicemen have been wounded to 3,673 civilians who suffered injuries in automobile accidents.

Starting with the first battle of the Revolution in April, 1775, and continuing through the major and minor wars in which the United States has fought, approximately 1,270,000 men have been wounded in battle. It took 177 years for non-fatal war casualties to reach that number. However, in the little over 50 years since the automobile became a means of transportation, 33,000,000 men, women and children have been injured in traffic accidents.

Thus, 26 persons have been injured in motor vehicle accidents to every American serviceman who was wounded in all of the wars in the country's history, the association pointed out. Putting it another way, in half a century automobile injuries total 2,603 percent more than all of the U. S. war wounded in one and three-fourths centuries. The report continues:

"That the automobile has outstripped war as a killer, is now recognized. In the span of less than an average man's lifetime, the automobile has killed 1,075,000 persons, while the total number of battle dead in all of our wars, according to the latest statistics, reached 1,009,000. This is now some 64,000 short of the automobile's 52-year toll and only a year ago the figures were about equal. The tremendous disproportion between traffic and war casualties can be traced directly to sheer carelessness and official negligence. The fact that the careless acts of American citizens themselves cause such a catastrophe every year does not minimize either the personal or national loss that grows worse every year."

Statistics of the association's comparative study of war wounded and traffic accident injured follow:

Total military wounded in all wars (177 years).....	1,270,000
Total injured in traffic accidents (52 years).....	33,000,000
Total wounded in Korea (first 30 months).....	93,000
Total injured in traffic accidents during same time.....	3,350,000
Daily average of servicemen wounded in Korea.....	102
Daily average of traffic injuries during same time.....	2,673

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### State Dept. Files on Yalta Mostly Bum Jokes, Dulles Told

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington — Secretary John Foster Dulles, meeting with top officers of the state department, turned to Chip Bohlen, new envoy to Russia and chief interpreter for FDR at Yalta.

"What's this I hear about some running accounts of Yalta being on file here?" he asked. "I told the senators that there are no such notes, and thought there were not. Now I hear that there are."

"We got them back from the White House," replied Bohlen. "They carry little of importance, mostly rather bum jokes by the president and Mr. Churchill. The senators have all the agreement material. The stenographic notes are not essential. Some of the jokes might unintentionally hurt the feelings of one or another of our current allies."

"If I'm queried by the senators, I'll stick to my old answer," countered Dulles. "I don't know of any stenographic notes in the files."

"I suppose that's all you can do," observed Bohlen.

**PENALTY FOR AN EDITOR?**  
The senate interior committee called a special secret session early this week to consider the question of disciplining or even recording the indictment of Bernard Tassler, managing editor of the American Federation of Labor magazine, "The American Federationist" for his criticism of tidelands oil senators.

This unusual procedure was hushed up behind closed doors, but senators were told to be present at 9:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the public session opened. A special request was made to have a quorum present in order to take important action.

Simultaneously, Editor Tassler was called by Stewart French, clerk of the interior committee, and asked to be present. Tassler replied that he would be glad to appear before a public session, but said he would not participate in any star-chamber proceedings.

What caused all the senate indignation was an editorial in the Washington News captioned: "The 300-Billion Dollar Offshore Oil Giveaway". It was signed by the "Citizens committee against the offshore oil grab," of which Tassler is a leader.

**PRICE DANIEL FUMES**  
The man who got literally purple of face over this ad and wanted to discipline Tassler was freshman Senator Price Daniel of Texas, who received heavy campaign contributions from Texas oilmen and who made tidelands oil one of the chief issues of his campaign. The paid ad raised the question as to why a small group of senators were in such a rush to pass the tidelands oil bill. "Is it," the ad asked, "a pay-off for lavish campaign contributions last fall?"

When the secret meeting convened, however, Senator Daniel, a freshman republican kept silent. He left older GOP Senator Guy Cordon of Oregon carry the ball.

"The American people want to know," Cordon read the ad, his face flushing, "why congress is in such an unseemly rush to give away \$300,000,000. What's the explanation? Is it true that the plan is to rob the American people for the benefit of a few greedy, powerful interests?"

"Let there be a searching, open, honest bipartisan investigation to find out whether it is true that some high administration leaders and some members of congress now sweating to rush through the offshore giveaway... had their election campaigns of last fall lavishly financed by the oil industry?... The American people are

highly suspicious, because they know that it just doesn't make sense for senators and congressmen from the 45 states which would lose heavily by the proposed giveaway, to be working for the giveaway legislation... This is the reason for the widespread charge that the giveaway deal is just a pay-off to those who contributed lavishly to campaign funds last fall. It is this really true? Or is the charge untrue? ..."

**OIL MONEY FLOWED**  
Senator Cordon looked around the room indignantly as he finished reading, then handed the ad to Senator Molly Malone of Nevada. By that time only seven senators had arrived, not enough for a quorum, and a quorum is necessary to take such important action as the disciplining of a newsmen.

So the committee went into a public session, and the question of proceeding against Tassler was left in mid-air. Wiser senators are hoping Cordon and Daniel will cool off.

Note—Illustrating the oil contributions outside Texas, here is a partial listing of the \$53,000 given away by Texas oilman H. R. Cullen during the recent campaign: Eisenhower, \$5,000; McCarthy in Wisconsin, \$5,000; Jenner in Indiana, \$3,500; Cain in Washington, \$1,000; Brewster in Maine, \$1,000; Watkins in Utah, \$1,000; Pat Hurley in New Mexico, \$1,000; Malone in Nevada, \$1,000; Ecton in Montana, \$1,000; Kem in Missouri, \$1,000. Price Daniel of Texas also got \$5,000. All of the above have voted for Tidelands oil except Malone, Ecton and Watkins, and is now appears that Watkins has changed his views and is for the oil interests.

**A SOUTHERNER'S TRIBUTE**  
One of the most shocked over the late Senator Bob LaFollette's suicide was the old political warhorse, Senator Walter George of Georgia, who fought many legislative battles against LaFollette.

It was George who delivered probably the most glowing tribute to LaFollette's memory on the senate floor. Afterward Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, who has locked horns with George on occasion, congratulated the veteran southerner.

There was an intense look on George's face as he replied very simply: "I loved that boy."

**MERRY-GO-ROUND**  
General Jerry "Slick" Persons has reported to Eisenhower that it's impossible to change congressman Dan Reed's mind on taxes... Herbert Hoover was chiefly behind the appointment of Francis White as ambassador to Mexico. An expert on Latin America, White has one bad strike against him. As head of the bondholders' committee, he's identified throughout Latin America with Wall street... Loy Henderson, the boy from Winfield, Kans., who's now U.S. ambassador in the hottest hot spot in the world, Iran, has cabied that the situation is worse than ever before and a good excuse for the Russians to walk in... Career diplomats really stick together. After unpopular Ambassador George Wadsworth was eased out of Turkey, he was sent to Czechoslovakia. His career friends carefully figured that sooner or later, newsmen William Oatis would be freed from jail, and that if George were in Czechoslovakia he could get credit for releasing him. Diplomatic blood is thicker than water.

(Copyright, 1953)  
President Ulysses S. Grant was named Hiram Ulysses Grant, but the name was changed because a congressman made an error when Grant was named to West Point and the future president allowed the error to stand.

## BY H. T. WEBSTER

### Thrill that Comes Once in a Lifetime



## Salem 13 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

March 6, 1940  
A state-wide convention of delegates pledged to further the cause of more adequate state pensions will meet in Salem this weekend.

Morrison-Knudson, Boise contractors, have submitted a low bid of \$723,000 for construction of Fern Ridge dam, first flood control dam to be built in the Willamette basin project.

Salem's 16th annual spring opening will be held tomorrow evening. Featured will be a British made radio operated by power from a gas flame.

Oregon's "dust bowl" refugees present no such problem as that affecting California, says John Coater, head of the state employment service. About 10,000 families have entered Oregon from the dust bowl region since 1930 but many have since returned to their native states.

Perrydale: A new type of softball will be tried out in Polk county this spring. The game will be played on a triangular instead of the customary square diamond. Airrie, Kings Valley, Perrydale and Valselt have agreed to give this new fangled ball game a trial.

A committee of Parrish Junior high school students met with a group of teachers last week for the purpose of organizing a student body representative council.

Ray Ellison of the Ellison

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Size of Expense Account Is Test of Business Standing

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The measure of a man's business success today often isn't the size of his salary—it's how big an expense account he draws.

The expense account is a wonderfully flexible instrument, the passport into a golden world of free-spending splendor.

"An expense account beats a paycheck because you don't have to explain it to Uncle Sam," says the lucky holder of one. "And the company doesn't ask too many questions about where the money goes—as long as you're bringing in business."

"Why should they holler? Every dollar you spend on expenses actually costs them only 18 cents. The rest would go to the government anyway under the excess profits tax."

The expense account probably is as old as civilization. But rising income taxes—and spreading business prosperity—have enabled it to create a new privileged class, both here and in England.

Many a man weds and weds a wife now on expense account money, or gives his dear old mother a winter vacation in Florida, or sends his son to a college he couldn't otherwise afford.

The joys and woes of this post-war aristocracy are explored in the current issue of Life Magazine by Ernie Havemann, who says:

"In cities like New York, Washington and Chicago it is safe to say that at any given moment well over half of all the people in the best hotels, the best nightclubs and the best restaurants are charging the bill to their companies, which in turn are charging it to the government in the form of tax deductions. Even a smaller city like Seattle reflects the phenomenon."

The cheerful advantages of a big expense account are obvious to anyone. The tragic side is just as real.

It is an open invitation for a man to live beyond his own means. He finds that his mere signature on a check will let him enter into a glamorous world of free drinks, free food, free theater tickets and other kinds of entertainment. He mixes with celebrities and people of real wealth.

He gets the idea he really belongs in this world, and soon his expense account doesn't cover the tabs he signs. He is in over his head. He spends more money—his own—trying to buy a customer's business instead of selling him on facts. And the final price too many pay is—alcoholism, marital breakup, loss of job.

But as they disappear, men with new expense accounts step up to the bar. The rubric effect of entertainment allowances on their men worries executives, but it is hard on them to draw the line.

Who are the temporary aristocracy of the age of the expense account?

"Anybody who sells anything is the definition of Toos Blaine, noted restaurateur and graduate student of Manhattan night life. "The big spenders are advertising men, public relations people, manufacturers, motion picture men, brokers and auto salesmen."

Shor believes that if you paid up many a man on an expense account and shook him naked would fall out of his pockets with his car keys.

"The big companies are getting more strict about expense accounts now," he said. "They were careless about them for a long time, but realized some got took advantage of them."

"They were using the dough to court girl friends instead of customers. But generally you find that a guy who abuses his expense account in time always himself right out of a job and back into the breadline."

Moralists may decry the expense account evil, but only a business recession is likely to curb it. Everybody who has an expense account says he is worth money on it, but he will break into tears if the boss tries to take it away. And no man in business who doesn't have an expense account feels he is really forging ahead until he can cuff a few tabs on his firm.

## Grass Meeting Slated Monday

Grasslands development in Oregon will be the theme of the Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting Monday.

Speakers will be Marshall N. Dana, National Reclamation Association leader, Portland banker and retired newspaper man; E. R. Jackman, professor of agriculture at Oregon State college; and Walter Lierman, Polk county farmer and Oregon game man of the year.

Members of the chamber are asked to bring farmer guests to the meeting. The meeting is one of the outstanding events of the Chamber of Commerce's public program of the year and is in the lead of the chamber's agricultural department, of which T. R. Hunt is chairman.

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