



Two very old men are next in succession

By Lyle C. Wilson
UPI Staff Writer

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. The system is assailed for putting and keeping in office as committee chairmen, representatives and senators who have outlived their prime, who have become impervious to new ideas, who lack initiative and reject the popular will.

System Unsuitable

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 would have 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 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 for 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.

New President Chose

If those objections are valid, the Congress should do something about correcting a bad situation. One way would be by constitutional amendment followed by legislation. This would enable a vice president who succeeded a president in office to name a successor vice president. The successor vice president would be nominated to the Senate for ratification.

Such a choice would be made, of course, with the single end in view of getting the best qualified stand-by man available to become president if a vacancy occurred. Presidential nominees usually pick their vice presidential running mates. The national conventions dutifully nominate them. President Johnson, you will remember, was particularly John F. Kennedy's choice.

So why not permit a sitting president to name his vice associate? Under the old system, a president picked his second in line of succession when he nominated a secretary of state. The catch there is that the secretary was picked to run the State Department with no thought of his fitness, in emergency, to be president of the United States.

Barbs

We'll bet that about 10 percent of the stuff stored in your basement is worth saving.

An Ohio man was held up while the robber held a beer bottle over his head. Enough to make the victim mad as hops.



With fall cleaning time here the davenport and the piano are due to change places.

One of the best uses for a thrashing machine is when a boy is sowing his wild oats.

PRIZE WINNERS

Five American authors have won the Nobel Prize for literature. Four of these were men and one woman. Sinclair Lewis, Eugene O'Neill, Pearl Buck, William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway.

President Lyndon B. Johnson has called American politics 'art of the possible'

EDITORS NOTE: This is the first of three dispatches on the career of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

By Harry Ferguson
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Lyndon B. Johnson called politics "the art of the possible" and he is a master of the art.

There was a time when politics meant to him the care, feeding and cajoling of his Texas constituents, but in recent years Johnson has taken the entire world as his arena of operations. He proved that he can charm a camel driver in Pakistan with the same easy technique he uses on a farmer living outside of Lubbock, Tex. President Kennedy used him with great effectiveness as a good will ambassador and trouble shooter at a dozen spots around the world.

Johnson is a single-minded man. He talks politics, eats politics and thinks politics through-out one of the most strenuous working schedules maintained by any man in the federal government. There are many areas of American life about which he has no curiosity and no knowledge. He was on the West Coast several years ago and somebody suggested he might like to visit a movie studio and meet Lana Turner.

"Who's Lana Turner?" Johnson asked. He wasn't making a wisecrack.

No Time for Trivia

There is no time in his thinking and his activity to inform himself about Hollywood and its personalities. A close friend said Johnson occasionally attends football games in Texas. "But I doubt," he added, "whether Lyndon ever saw a touchdown scored or knew at

any given moment which team was ahead. He usually was leaning over to talk with somebody in the row ahead or turning to engage in earnest conversation with somebody behind him."

When Johnson says politics is "the art of the possible" he speaks from a reservoir of knowledge going back to 1932 when he first came to Washington as secretary to Rep. Richard Kleberg, owner of the King Ranch in Texas. What he means is that there is no point in knocking your head against a stout stone wall. You try to figure out some way to find a gate or climb over the wall. Don't waste your time on the impossible. Concentrate on the possible.

No Faith in Oratory

President Johnson puts small faith in high-flown oratory as a means of influencing people and getting results. The nation is unlikely to hear from his lips such phrases as "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and "ask now what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country." He puts great store in private talks as opposed to public pronouncements. Last Saturday he gave an indication of how things will be run in the White House from now on when he sat down for an immediate chat with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara on the pressing problems of the moment.

Johnson has a passion for information and is an excellent listener. When he was a senator, he had on his office wall a saying of his father: "When you're talkin', you ain't learnin' nothin'." His mind soaks up information like a sponge and he constantly is demanding more. He wants everything checked and rechecked. A story

about him—possibly exaggerated—is that he once asked his assistant to find out the date of the Army-Navy football game. "The Navy says the game is on Dec. 3," the assistant reported.

"What does the Army say?" Johnson asked.

Search for Information

This restless search for information frequently goes on 18 hours a day. He never is far from a telephone. He has one attached to a tree in the backyard of his home in Austin, Tex., and paces as he talks, carrying a long extension cord with him. He once booked simultaneous long distance calls in three adjacent phone booths in an airport. When he was in a hospital some years ago, a nurse was asked how he was getting along. "He would be getting along much better if we could take the telephone out of his room," she said. "He has been here three days and already has called Austria twice."

Johnson was the most effective Senate leader of this century. He knew when to turn on the heat and when to use gentle persuasion. It was said that there was hardly a man in the U.S. Senate who didn't owe Johnson at least one small political debt, and he knew exactly how and when to demand payment.

Johnson doesn't panic and he doesn't scare easily. President Eisenhower once tore into Johnson and the Democrats for not cooperating enough in his legislative program. Johnson made a short and typical speech: "We are not going to carry out instructions like a bunch of second lieutenants."

Next: A big day: FDR and the Manhattan cocktails.

Douglas-Home to concentrate on home front

By Phil Newsom
UPI Staff Writer

Notes from the foreign news cables:

Britain's Campaign:

British Prime Minister Sir Alex Douglas-Home has decided to concentrate his government effort almost entirely on the home front in preparation for the general election next year. British ambitions in the international scene are to be considerably curtailed and no major British initiative is anticipated in the months to come. Home is said to agree with his top party advisers that the fate of the election will depend primarily on what happens on the home front in the coming months. He plans to give his Foreign Secretary R.A. Butler a free hand to tackle foreign policies with little interference from himself.

De Gaulle Dissatisfied:

Political gossip in Paris has it that President Charles de Gaulle is becoming disenchanted with Premier Georges Pompidou. He may make him the scapegoat if the current savings - franc anti-inflation plan flops. Politicians are mentioning among possible successors National Assembly President Jacques Chaban-Delmas, 48, known as a 150 per cent Gaullist, and former Premier Edgar Faure, 55, who has just completed a successful scouting mission for De Gaulle in Red China.

De Gaulle-Erhard:

Despite the friendly words exchanged between President De Gaulle and West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard during their Paris meeting, French officials foresee some increased French-German tension before the end of the year over common market farm policy. They say De Gaulle found Erhard evasive and unwilling to commit himself firmly on the problem.

Red Trade:

The West Germans are expected to continue their current drive to expand trade relations with European Communist countries as a first step toward a normalization of relations. So far, West Germany has concluded agreements with Romania, Poland and Hungary for an exchange of trade missions. In recent weeks, Czechoslovakia also put out feelers in the same direction. The current drive represents the government's attempt to break away from the traditional policy of refusing to have any political contact with governments which grant diplomatic recognition to the Communist regime in East Germany.

Tokyo-Peiping:

The Japanese are hopeful of persuading the United States that it is time to reassess its attitude toward Communist China. The Japanese are in no hurry to exchange ambassadors with Communist China—for one thing this would sever their ties with Nationalist China, which already are under a strain. But the Japanese already are reviving trade with Communist China, and feel that trade and other relations can only grow as time goes by.

BOUND OVER

BOISE (UPI) — Nelson Woodrow Hurd, 43, Eugene, Ore., has been bound over to district court on an armed robbery charge after waiving preliminary hearing in Justice Court here.

Justice of the Peace J. F. Cromwell set bail at \$5,000. Hurd was accused of taking \$350 at gunpoint from a Boise supermarket Friday.

The suspect was taken into custody Saturday night.

Drawing to a close

Ecumenical Council making decisions in Rome which will affect millions of world's people

EDITOR'S NOTE: The second session of the Ecumenical Council is drawing to a close after making decisions that will affect millions of persons. The following dispatch is the first of three, summing up the council's accomplishments, reporting on what may be expected from future sessions, and assessing the role of Pope Paul VI.

By Louis Cassels
UPI Staff Writer

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — On a bright blue Roman day last week, a priest and a newsman stood outside St. Peter's Basilica and watched 2,000 colorfully garbed bishops pour through its massive iron doors at the end of the days meeting of the Ecumenical Council.

"No matter how often you see it, it's a moving spectacle," the reporter said. "Yes," said the priest. "I can never forget that these men are making decisions that will affect hundreds of millions of people for centuries to come."

He did not exaggerate. At its first session, in the fall of 1962, the Ecumenical Council did not accomplish very much. It got bogged down in endless debate, and had to grope its way painfully to efficient procedures.

But the second session, now drawing to a close, has been tremendously fruitful. It has completed action on some projects, and initiated others, which will lead to far-reaching changes not only in the internal life of the Catholic Church but also in its relations with other religious bodies.

Since they reconvened last Sept. 29, the council fathers have:

—Finished work on a lengthy liturgical reform document designed to convert Catholic laity from silent spectators into active participants in public worship. Among many other things, it authorizes use of modern languages instead of Latin in large portions of the Mass and in the administration of such sacraments as baptism and marriage. This document will be finally approved by the council and formally promulgated by the Pope at a public ceremony Friday.

FLYING BATS

Bats can avoid flying into obstacles in the dark because they can hear echoes of the sounds as they bounce off objects. These creatures can hear high-pitched sound waves of about 50,000 vibrations per second.

—Endorsed by an overwhelming majority a theological doctrine known in council jargon as "the collegiality of bishops" which affirms that bishops have a divine right to share with the Pope in the government of the universal church. This doctrine, which has the full support of Pope Paul VI, is intended to correct the emphasis on papal supremacy which has characterized Catholic thought since the last Ecumenical Council in 1870, and to restore the much more ancient concept of the Pope as the head of the college of bishops.

—Began work on practical measures for enhancing the powers of bishops (and correspondingly reducing the vast power now exercised in the name of the Pope by the Roman Curia.) Proposals for decentralization of church government, considered by the fathers in two weeks of sharp debate, include the establishment of a "senate of bishops in Rome to which national hierarchies would send elected representatives; The granting of real legislative powers to national conferences of bishops, such as the U. S. National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) and an explicit council statement that bishops possess not merely such powers as the Vatican has delegated to them, but all powers of decision which have not been specifically "reserved" by the Pope. The practical effect would be to greatly reduce the number of matters that must be referred to Rome. Voting on the details of this controversial document was deferred until the next council session.

—Approved the restoration of the ancient order of deacons, which goes back to the New Testament, in areas where there is a serious shortage of priests. Deacons, unlike priests, may be married men. They will be ordained clergymen, and will perform many of the functions of priests, but will not be authorized to celebrate mass or hear confessions.

—Began debate on a document which seeks to create an entirely new climate in interfaith relations. It recognizes the right of Protestant churches to be regarded as Christian bodies in which the Holy Spirit is authentically at work. It calls on Catholics, from bishops to laity, to do all in their power to "remove obstacles" to Christian reunion and to achieve greater mutual love and understanding with the "separated brethren." It puts the Catholic Church officially on record, for the first

time, in favor of religious liberty for all. And it strikes a blow at one of the historic roots of anti-Semitism by declaring that the Jews must not be made scapegoats for the crucifixion of Christ, since the guilt for that "decide" rests upon all mankind. This document on "ecumenism" (ecclesiastical slang for the movement toward Christian unity) was the last to be taken up at this session, and voting on its provisions doubtless will await the next session.

These are only the highlights of the work accomplished by the council fathers this fall. Many other things might be mentioned — their overwhelmingly favorable reception of a document which emphasizes the importance of the laity as Christ's ambassadors to the real world; approval of a decree upholding freedom of the press but calling for higher moral standards in all media of mass communications; their decision, by a very close vote, to devote a single modest chapter rather than a whole lengthy document to exposition of Catholic beliefs about the Virgin Mary.

But even a partial listing of the second session's accomplishments should make clear that the Ecumenical Council is no longer bogged down in talk.

It has begun to move, and it seems to be moving with a might determination toward the goals of reform, renewal and reunion which fired the heart of Pope John XIII when he called the council into being.

Next: What may be expected from future sessions of the council.

Mr. Kennedy's assassination was not civilized, but neither was Oswald's

Like a refrain, the past three days, we have heard American and world figures make one comment, more than any other, about the assassination of the late John F. Kennedy. The comment was one of shock, that such an event could happen in "the most civilized country of the world." It was a shock, one we shall be trying to figure out for years to come.

A young man named Lee Harvey Oswald was picked up by Dallas police. He was charged with the murder of the President. He was charged with the subsequent—only minutes later—murder of a Dallas policeman who apparently sought to question him about the shooting of Mr. Kennedy.

Oswald was taken to the Dallas city police headquarters. He was questioned there for nearly 48 hours. During that time a web of circumstantial evidence began to tighten around him.

The rifle which shot the President was owned by Oswald. His fingerprints were found upon it, when it was located in the building from which the fatal shot was fired. He was seen in the building a half-hour before the shooting. He was seen in the building immediately after the shooting. There were others, but these were the main facts which led Dallas police to place a murder charge against him. He was to be taken before a grand jury this week.

At the request of the teevee networks, Oswald was held over Saturday night at police headquarters. Plans were made to take him to the regular jail Sunday morning, after the networks got all their affiliates on the line. Out of an elevator he came, with police officers obligingly standing clear so the cameras could whirl away. Then the owner of a striptease joint stepped up and obligingly saved Dallas police the trouble of having to do any more work on

their case. He shot Oswald with an illegal gun. Ironically, Oswald died almost 48 hours to the minute after Mr. Kennedy, in a room only 10 feet away.

Oswald, if he committed the crime charged against him, deserved no sympathy. There is little doubt he either did it or was deeply involved. And he had very little public sympathy even before a transplanted Texan, from Chicago, did away with him.

But he was entitled to some things, whether he deserved them or not.

He was entitled to a trial, before an impartial jury, or as impartial a jury as could be gathered under the circumstances.

He was entitled to representation by counsel of his choice, something he had not had at the time he was killed. He was offered legal assistance, but had been unable to get the lawyer he wanted.

He was entitled to be taken before a grand jury, to have someone other than investigating police decide whether the evidence against him was sufficient to hold him for trial.

He was entitled to bring witnesses before the court, witnesses who might help to establish whatever story he might have to tell.

Oswald, at his best, is not going to look very good in history. Not only was the case against him strong, he had once renounced his American citizenship. He got into fights sticking up for Fidel Castro, not a lovable character to most American citizens. He was an avowed Marxist.

But Dallas police, and the rest of the country, don't look very good, allowing him to be shot down before he had his day in court. That was not very civilized, either.

Height of something or other

Each year the proprietors of Nieman-Marcus, a department store in Dallas — surely you've heard of Dallas — send their Christmas catalogue around the country. Each year the store seems to try to reach hard for a new height in conspicuous consumption. This year it has hit the height, in something or other.

teevee setup. It includes a home camera, a videotape recorder, and a teevee-stereo combination set. To top the whole thing off, the set bears "a plaque with the recipient's name."

The price?

\$30,000.

Merry Christmas.

Mountain out of molehill

Some fuss has been raised in recent weeks because of the refusal of Freeman Holmer and his immediate boss, Governor Mark Hatfield, to name Holmer's employer during a short leave of absence from his state job. Holmer said the employer was a private company, and that the business was his and that of the company. Hatfield won't discuss the matter.

Now comes Charlie Porter, the gadfly from Eugene, to demand that someone demand that Holmer name his employer. Charlie, you can be sure, has a partisan interest in the matter, but it makes his query no less proper to have such an interest.

Knowing Porter and his cohorts, one can be sure this will not be the last time the question will be asked, unless it is answered promptly.

Before Holmer and Hatfield let Porter make a mountain out of their molehill, Holmer should disclose the name of his employer. It is not exactly all private business. Holmer was working for the state when he took his leave of absence. He returned to state employment after the short leave. There are rumors going the rounds, that his in-between employer was someone interested more in his state connections than his unquestioned ability.

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Philosophy

ACROSS

1. Stoic school
2. Founder
3. "Cognito, ergo..." (Descartes postulate)
4. German philosopher
5. Ireland
6. Compass point
7. Flat surface
8. Unfastened
9. Decree
10. Spice
11. Eastern variant
12. Carbine
13. Monetary unit
14. Greek philosopher
15. Kind
16. Landing craft
17. Auditory
18. Roman ancestor
19. Postage
20. Antonym for atheism
21. Number
22. Breakfast dish
23. Snug retreats
24. Christian creed
25. Crowlike structure
26. Offshoot
27. Afghan prince
28. Shorn
29. Lease
30. Grampus
31. Heavy head of hair
32. Lament
33. Negative vote
34. Spirit

DOWN

1. Greek chief
2. Sea bird
3. Type of palm
4. Units
5. Musical sign
6. Employ
7. Part of brain
8. Banjo
9. Operatic solo
10. British dramatist
11. Italian
12. Defensiveness
13. Chinese rule
14. Gone by
15. Music maker
16. Scotch accent
17. Scottish cap
18. Garland
19. Fling
20. Beliefs
21. Horn
22. Course boy
23. Personal
24. Pronoun
25. Playmaker
26. Altitude
27. Whitehead
28. French city
29. Autos
30. Buddhist sacred mount
31. Circlet
32. Scottish philosopher
33. Verbal
34. Twinkle name
35. Paradise
36. Mouths

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SERIES
LORD
TRONIC
TAMARA
JANET
READER
STAVE
NATURAL
ELEVATOR
ABE LINCOLN
LIST
RETIRE
INNATE
DEEMED
STOATS