

Legislation in Presidential Emergency Truman Started Early To Think About

(Continued from Page 1)
After the first shock of seeing President Roosevelt, I tried to dismiss from my mind the ominous thoughts of a possible breakdown, counting on his ability to bounce back from the strains and stress of office. After Yalta, President Roosevelt continued to carry on with sustained energy and alertness — until suddenly called by death.

From the day I succeeded to the Presidency, I had been thinking about the needs of an act of legislation to provide machinery to meet the emergency of a President's disability.

Shortly after taking office, I considered setting up a commission to study the problem and make recommendations. But in the midst of war and during the period of postwar reconstruction we were preoccupied with more immediate and urgent matters.

Change by Statute
I therefore chose instead to recommend to the Congress a change by statute of succession to the Presidency from the Cab-

inet to the Congress in the event the nation was without a Vice President. Up to that time the Secretary of State was next in order of succession. I did not think that a Cabinet officer—who is not elected by the people—should succeed to the Presidency. This is an elective office. The Speaker of the House who is, in fact, the top-ranking elected public official, after the President and Vice President, is now, under the new law, next in succession.

This, however, does not meet the problem when a President is unable to perform the duties of his office.

I suggest, therefore, that the following proposal may provide us with a workable solution:

Committee of Seven
1. When a President is stricken with an illness, raising the question of his ability to carry out the duties of his office, there should come into being a committee of seven composed of representatives of the three branches of the Government. This com-

mittee should consist of the Vice President, the Chief Justice of the United States, the Speaker of the House, and the majority and minority leaders of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

This committee would select a board of leading medical authorities drawn from top medical schools of the nation. This medical board, thus chosen, would then make the necessary examinations, presenting its findings to the committee of seven. Should the findings of the medical board indicate that the President is unable to perform his duties, and that he is, in fact, truly incapacitated and not merely stricken with a transitory illness, then the committee of seven would so inform the Congress. Congress then would have the right to act, and by a two-thirds vote of the full membership declare the Vice President as President.

The Vice President, designated as President, would thereupon serve out the full term of his predecessor. Should the stricken President, thus relieved, experience during this term a complete recovery, he would not be entitled to repossess the office.

Meeting of Committee
Should the Congress be in adjournment or recess when a President is incapacitated, the Vice President, the Speaker and Chief Justice should call a meeting of the committee of seven. This committee, after receiving the medical findings, would have authority to call Congress into special session for the purpose of declaring the Vice President as President.

2. When a Vice President succeeds to the Presidency and leaves the office of the Vice President vacant, the last Electoral College should be called into session by the new President for the purpose of selecting and declaring a new Vice President. I would recommend that in every

instance where a Vice President succeeds to an unexpired term of a President, the Electoral College be convened to choose a new Vice President.

By this procedure I think we would be able to ensure the proper continuance of the functioning of the Presidency and, at the same time, protect the nation's paramount interests through the full exercise of the checks and balances of our free democratic institutions.

I suggest procedure along these broad general lines could be enacted into law by statute. If necessary, these provisions could be framed into a Constitutional Amendment.

Weather Bureau Reports Typhoon Near Luzon

Manila — The Weather Bureau forecasting center reported Saturday that a typhoon was approaching the eastern coast of Luzon.

The effects of the typhoon would be felt over the eastern coastal areas of Luzon by last night, the Weather Bureau said.

A typhoon warning had been issued for Luzon and an advisory for the Visayas. All ships at sea and aircraft were warned to avoid the path of the strong disturbance.

Nautilus 'Sinking' Story Revealed

San Francisco — The commander of the submarine Nautilus has revealed the inside story of how the atomic-powered vessel was "sunk" recently during war games off the California coast.

Reports of the "sinking" circulated here recently when the First Fleet paid a visit to San Francisco. But until Sunday, details were lacking.

Cmdr. William A. Anderson, the youthful skipper of the Nautilus, told the story to newsmen while escorting them on a tour of the sub. The Nautilus is paying a four-day visit to San Francisco.

"It happened while we were surfaced," he said. "The task force commander asked the Nautilus to receive a personal package to the commanding officer. It was being sent over by helicopter."

"The personal package proved to be a booby-trapped cigar box, which set off a photoflash bulb when the lid was opened."

"Inside was a note from the antisub ships that said, 'at last we got you!'"

Anderson said the Nautilus went along with the joke and sent back a message saying, "package received, went off as scheduled."

Thomas A. Edison's claim to being sole inventor of the incandescent lamp was upheld by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

'Bride and Groom' TV Show Will Be Broadcast Starting Next Week

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press Correspondent

New York — "Bride and Groom," a show which operates under the assumption that it's safe to play with matches, waltzes down your NBC-TV aisle next Monday.

A veteran of five campaigns on radio and four on TV, "Bride and Groom" will return July 1 on a Monday through Friday ticket to dispense free loot to willing newlyweds and a good cry to mama at home.

If its advance mail is any indication, the show's trend should be as high as guests at a wedding reception. Right now, letters are pouring into John Reddy, producer of the program

at the rate of a couple of thousand a week.

Free Gifts Galore

The writers' objective — to offer themselves as candidates for TV's aisle of bliss in exchange for honeymoon trips, refrigerators, silver, cameras, stoves and TV sets. In short, just about everything but a free Wasserman test.

"We're looking for interesting people with appealing stories," said Reddy today. "We want to have a happy show rather than a hard luck one."

"The whole object of the show is to give girls the kind of wedding that only a Grace Kelly or a Queen Elizabeth gets in real life."

Chosen thus far to tie the knot on TV are a passenger from the Mayflower II and his girl who is flying here from England; a couple of Hungarian refugees who'll be wed July 4; and Senator Edward Ford and Louise Grace. You may remember Ford as a panel member of radio's "Can You Top This?"

All Over Country
Applications for the show have come in from points as scattered as Erie, Pa., San Mateo, Calif.; Amite, La., and Marshall, Tex. Among them are a girl in Minnesota who wants to marry her chemistry teacher; two Arthur Murray dance instructors in Champaign, Ill.; and twin sisters in Water Park.

Wash., who wish to marry a pair of brothers.

Perhaps the most curious plea to arrive in Reddy's office this month came from a female in Louisville, Ky. She described herself as 36-years-old and 215 pounds heavy. Her plaint: "Find me a man!"

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Sandra E. — It was all my brother's fault.

Donald E. — It's none of her business.

Sandra E. — I am a girl of 24 and I'm having a terrible problem with my brother, who is three years older.

Not long ago I introduced him to a very good friend of mine and they started going out together. Gertrude fell for Don like a ton of bricks and I thought he felt pretty much the same. Now Gertrude tells me Don made love to her and she had relations with him, thinking he loved her enough to marry her. But it turns out he doesn't feel that way at all.

Gertrude is a very lovely girl and I always thought she was quite prim and strait-laced. I'm sure it is all Don's fault. Gertrude is such a terrible state I'm afraid she'll have a nervous breakdown. She comes and cries on my shoulder all the time and asks me to help her. I've told Don he ought to marry her, but I can't do more than that.

Donald E. — This "prim and strait-laced" girl practically threw herself at me. If I wanted to seduce anyone, it wouldn't be my sister's best girl friend. But it was practically impossible to say no to Gertrude. I'm not responsible if some girl gets the crazy notion that this is the way to hook me.

Besides, the whole thing is none of Sandra's business. Gertrude had no right to tell her and Sandra has no right to meddle in my affairs. She has threatened to talk to our parents about it. That would be

the end. Does she really think that would get her anywhere? I've gotten disgusted with the way Gertrude has acted and I wouldn't marry her now, no matter who intervened.

All I wish is that Sandra would keep her girl friends to herself in the future.

The Council: Donald's light and airy attitude is just false bravado. He undoubtedly knows underneath that it is completely inappropriate to the seriousness of this episode.

In the first place, he has shocked his sister by his conduct and has betrayed her trust. It is natural for Sandra to feel some responsibility in the affair. She never would have made this introduction if she had expected such an outcome.

Aside from the moral angle, Donald couldn't have used worse taste and judgment than to get involved in a casual intimacy with his sister's friend.

Donald knows he is aware of this, but tries to defend himself by putting all the blame on Gertrude. This is every bit as silly as it is ungallant. He did not have to accede to Gertrude's demands—presuming she made them. As a first step toward recovering a little of his sister's respect, Donald ought at least to acknowledge he has been in the wrong.

Sandra should realize, however, that her responsibility in the matter is quite limited. It is assumed that her friend is about her age—old enough to take responsibility for her own conduct.

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Check on Prowler Brings Different Job

Portland — Police Officer Kenneth Whitman was called on to hunt a prowler late Saturday but wound up delivering a baby instead.

Whitman answered a call to "check a prowler" but instead of a prowler he found Orre E. Kerns frantically searching for a telephone to call medical help for his wife.

Officer Whitman followed Kerns into his apartment where Kerns' wife was giving birth to a baby. Whitman, father of three children, rolled up his sleeves and went to work.

Mrs. Kerns and the four-pound baby girl were reported doing fine.

LATE TRY FAILS

Knoxville, Tenn. — Mrs. Lillian Walters Rutherford, 70, has sued for annulment of her one-month-old marriage to Mac B. Rutherford, 80. Her petition says they are "wholly unsuited for each other."

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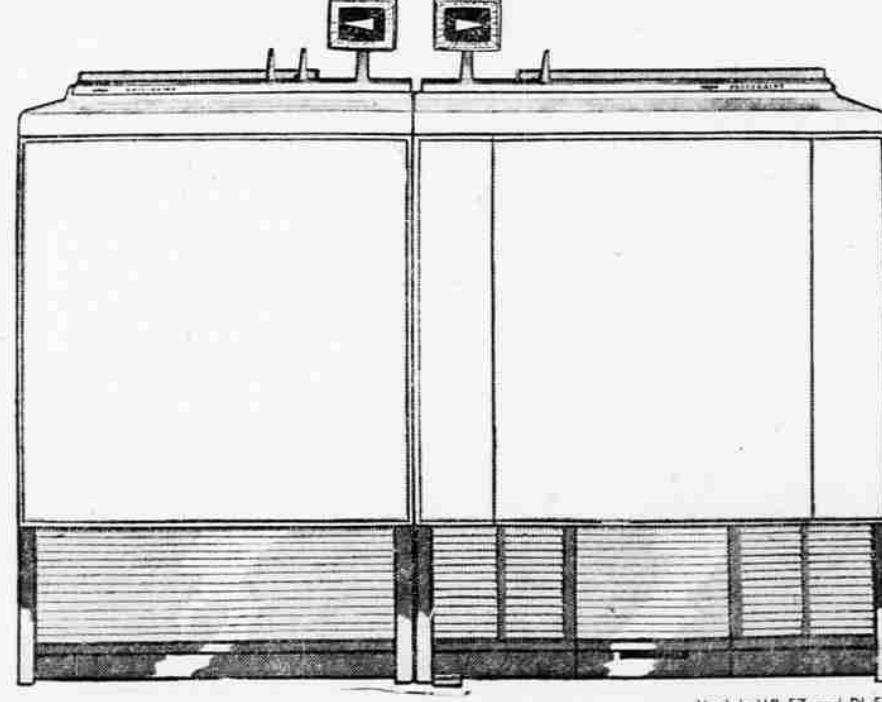
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