

Konoye's Dramatic Suicide Seen As Heavy Blow To Emperor's Prestige

By RUSSELL BRINES
TOKYO, Dec. 17 (AP)—Prince Fumimaro Konoye's dramatic suicide yesterday—a new and powerful blow to the prestige and position of Emperor Hirohito—may have profound repercussions in the imperial household as well as in political circles.

The prince himself, in his final hours, expressed concern for the future of the imperial house as discussions of possible abdication were revived. Some Japanese said the suicide might be the final factor in precipitating the emperor's resignation.

Doubtless, Hirohito personally felt the blow deeply. Konoye long was his close confidante and it generally was believed the mikado placed great authority in "the dangerous prince."

Konoye, 54, took his own life with poison before dawn Sunday after entertaining friends and relatives at a farewell dinner in his luxurious suburban home. He had been scheduled to surrender to American authorities by midnight Sunday.

The prince, three-time premier, left a suicide note with his second son, explaining that he could not bear the humiliation of American trial as a war criminal.

Joseph B. Keenan, American special prosecutor, issued a statement declaring to the Japanese people that anyone with a clear conscience had nothing to fear from American justice.

Suicide of the prince, highest-ranking Japanese yet to take that way out, was a Japanese sensation, particularly since many here disapprove of poison as providing too "easy" a death.

Konoye's death was a swift parallel blow to General MacArthur's recent directive against Shinto. That directive struck deeply at Hirohito. Before that, the widespread network of MacArthur's war criminal lists had stripped from around the throne all but two of the principal and still active court actors in the tragedy of the past 15 years. The imperial household had been invaded by the arrest of Prince Morimasa, Naishin.

Kido Surrenders
Yesterday, a few hours after Konoye's pre-dawn suicide, Marquis Kichiro Kido, until recently lord keeper of the privy seal and another close adviser of the emperor, surrendered as a war criminal suspect.

It may have been with design, then, that a few days ago newspapers suddenly blossomed anew with stories about Crown Prince Akihito, whose twelfth birthday is Dec. 23.

After the surrender, all of the Tokyo press carried stories about the crown prince. It is known now that the emperor's abdication before the occupation was discussed and Akihito was being groomed as ruler under a regency. The plans were abandoned when the allied attitude indicated relative leniency toward Hirohito.

Diet sessions have revealed several indications that the wall of the imperial household is cracking. Most important was a relatively unnoticed resolution introduced by aged Kuki Ozaki,

veteran member of the house of representatives.

Ozaki proposed that the reign period name of "Showa" be changed. No such change has been made during the lifetime of an emperor since Meiji. What Ozaki proposed indirectly was abdication of the emperor and establishment of a new reign. He could be no more explicit under the Japanese code.

Emperor Discussed
Discussion of the emperor and whether he is responsible for the war, something unthinkable until recently, consumed several hours in the diet.

Furthermore, Konoye and other high ranking Japanese—probably unwittingly—have disclosed in interviews that Hirohito attended key meetings which determined upon the Pacific war and therefore knew as much about the plans as cabinet members. At the outset of the occupation, government officials had insisted that the emperor was uninformed of such plans.

Konoye, in refusing to face trial, accepted responsibility for part of his actions. The weakening aristocratic and court cliques undoubtedly were jolted heavily.

2 Escape Injury In Auto Accident

TULE LAKE—Al Jones, Stronghold farmer, and Mrs. Fred Taylor, passenger in Jones' sedan, escaped injury Saturday afternoon when their car slipped on an icy street and crashed into a loaded freight car on the Southern Pacific tracks at Tulelake. The machine was badly damaged.

Jones and Mrs. Taylor had left before Tulelake officers were able to get their car to the accident, the police car being stalled at the time.

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Big Frank Says Pro Grid Game "Tough But Clean"

Frank Ramsey, former Klamath high school football coach, was here today to renew acquaintances after two years in the marine corps and a season playing professional football with the Chicago Bears of the National Professional Football League. Ramsey will be here for two days, and will go to Corvallis to be with his family for Christmas.

Speaking of his professional football with the Bears this season, he declared it to be the greatest athletic experience he has ever been through.

"The way professional football is organized is nothing short of phenomenal," said Ramsey. "Everything that is done is planned with the idea of pleasing the spectators. There is no monkey business. It is rough, tough but clean.

"Foul tricks, like punching, are simply not tolerated. If there is an act of misconduct, the league imposes a \$50 fine and the club imposes a \$50 fine. When that old green starts coming out of the pay envelope, the hothead cools off.

"A professional football game is played in two hours or less. That is because no time is lost in sending players in and out, and in time-wasting practices, common in college and high school games. It's run like a business.

"The Bears' complete offense included 700 plays. They have from 12 to 20 defensive set-ups. In the Greenbay Packer game, we had 10 defenses when Don Hutson was in, and 10 when Vic Goodnight was at end. These were set up to meet the talents of these particular players."

Hutson, he said, despite his 34 years, is the greatest offensive threat in football today. Ramsey played guard with the Bears and was in all the time on defense. He called the defensive plays for the Chicago pros.

The former Klamath coach, one-time Oregon State lineman, said he was undecided whether he will go back to the Bears next season, depending on developments. He is one of the applicants for the football coaching job at Willamette university.

While here, Ramsey is a guest at the home of Harry Mesner on Summers lane.

WEATHER			
	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Eugene	42	34	Trace
Klamath Falls	32	26	Trace
Sacramento	35	31	0.00
Portland	33	31	0.24
Reno	38	23	Trace
San Francisco	54	39	0.00
Seattle	38	27	Trace
Medford	46	31	0.00
Red Bluff	57	31	0.00

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA — Partly cloudy today and tonight. Cloudy Tuesday. Little change in temperature. Gentle east to southeast wind off coast.



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Legion Slates Annual Party

The annual Christmas party of the American Legion and auxiliary will be combined with initiation by the auxiliary Tuesday evening in the Legion hall.

All new members are requested to be present at 8 p. m. to be prepared for initiation. A dance and Christmas party will follow the ceremony and the evening will be concluded with supper at 11 o'clock.

During auxiliary initiation the

Legion will hold a short business meeting. Committees for the affair are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schubert, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Otterbein, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heilbronner, Mrs. Lester Finley, Mrs. Alfred Petersteiner and Hal Ogle.

Man Killed When Struck By Auto

ALBANY, Dec. 17 (AP)—Walter E. Harrington, about 65, Rt. 1, Jefferson, was killed Saturday when he stepped from the curb into the path of a car in the business district here.

Deputy Coroner John Summers reported the car was driven by Donald E. Engel, Albany.

Convict Returned To Bakersfield

TULE LAKE—Eugene T. Thompson, 24, escaped convict from the Kern county jail at Bakersfield, Calif., was returned there by officers of that city Saturday after being picked up here by an officer of the Tulelake police department.

Thompson, convicted of assault and battery, had served one month of a one-year term when he walked away from a road work camp several weeks ago. He was employed by a local potato grower when apprehended.

It is safe to hold a queen bee in your hand, since they only use their stings on other queen bees.



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Coloring Chest Set	1.20 39c	Sturdy Soft Animals	1.37 98c
Checkerboard Masonite	1.20 49c	Plastic Cutlery Set 12 Pc. 45c	35c
Combination Set 7 Game	9.54 3.95	Miniature Baby Buggy	1.21 59c
108 Piece Writing Set	1.31 89c	Tot's Wooden Bench	1.74 1.29
Rainbow Beads Hollywood	1.56 89c	Educational Peg Boat	1.29 89c
Dart Board Composition	1.39 49c	Shaggy Soft Lamb	5.52 4.49
Fox Hunt Board Game	1.35 69c	Plush Scottie Dog	5.52 4.49
Rubber Ring Toss	2.71 98c	Polo Pony on Wheels	2.37 1.98
Wood Passenger Train	2.66 79c	Complete Checker Set	1.08 69c
5 Unit Freight Train	2.66 79c	Deluxe Rattle Push	2.13 1.19
Battleship Pulltoy	2.03 98c	Wood Rifle Garand Type	3.47 2.49
Peg Wagon Pulltoy	1.42 98c		
Plywood Doll House	6.66 4.45		
Black Stick Horse	2.06 98c		
Kiddy Rocking Horse	5.42 3.98		
Exciting Carom Game	6.24 3.98		
Wooden Gun Commando	1.57 89c		

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