

A Brilliant, Meteoric Career



Even at age 10, John Kennedy had athletic bent.



At 22, his father was U.S. Ambassador to England.



In 1944, he looked like this while on leave from PT-boat duty in the Pacific war zone.



After their wedding in 1953, freshman Senator Kennedy and Jacqueline were pictured in their Washington home.



Destiny clasped John Kennedy when he won the Democratic nomination and he went on to win the election.



He will be remembered best with a boyish grin on his face at a televised press conference.



This familiar view of the President in his rocking chair will also live in memories.



Only scant days ago, Washington saw the Kennedy family at a performance of the visiting Black Watch.

Two Old Men Next In Presidential Line

By LYLE C. WILSON

United Press International

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 as 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.

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 win the 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.

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 keep 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.



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Lyndon B. Johnson Is Master Politician

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

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International
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 throughout 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.

There is no time in his thinking and his activity to inform himself about Hollywood and its personalities. A close friend said Johnson occasionally at-

tends 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.

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 not what your country can do for you, but what you can 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.

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 he's called Austria twice."

Knowledge is power and in the field of his choice Johnson has been a most effective leader—probably the most effective one in this century—he knew the strength and weakness of every other senator, and he used his knowledge to get results. 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."



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