

Press-Herald

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Succession Law Needed

Faced by the inauguration of Hubert Humphrey as Vice President from any implied insult to Speaker John McCormack, who had been next in line for the Presidency, Congress should lose no time in passing legislation setting up a definite and practical new law of succession.

At stake is the smooth continuity of an administration as close as possible to the expressed will of the people. Also at stake is the effective running of the executive branch, now that the Vice President has come into a much more important administrative role.

One of the proposals Congress will consider provides that in the case of vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President shall nominate a successor, who would take office only after confirmation by a majority vote in the Congress. Since Presidential nominees of both parties traditionally select their running mates anyway, this is no great departure from democratic processes. Actually, the Congressional confirmation gives the people more of a voice in the Vice Presidential selection than they have in a regular election.

There are other matters that any succession law must cover, of course. The important thing, however, is that action be taken soon, and that it be wise, considered action. The people need this new safeguard.

A Vital Freedom

In what is for the most part, no doubt, a well-intentioned effort to protect defendants in criminal cases against harmful publicity, a number of legal experts are proposing new restrictions on relations between the bar and the press. As the Los Angeles Times commented, however, they seem to feel there is "a basic conflict between two constitutional rights—that of fair trial, and that of press freedom."

We join the Times in dissent. Certainly no responsible newspaper would jeopardize a man's right to a fair trial; certainly no responsible trial lawyer would seek publicity by giving statements that might wreck the same damage. But to restrict, as a majority of the Philadelphia Bar Association voted recently, the free press' access to law enforcement records which historically have been open to proper journalistic scrutiny, poses a threat to the public's safety from police statism.

For the benefit of the Philadelphia lawyers, the Times quoted Pennsylvania's Chief Justice John C. Bell: "A free press, which is constitutionally guaranteed, is muzzled or gagged, crime will run even more rampant." With the Times we feel that our methods of press coverage have worked for greater justice and fuller information for all. For the sake of the public interest, they should not be tampered with.

Others Say

Dig That Computer

Computers may some day be the Big Brother of George Orwell's 1984, but it seems they still are susceptible to human error. In the Netherlands recently a student studying on a tax-free scholarship began getting stern notices that he owed no tax but should pay up, followed by reminders which ordinarily include an added fine, but which said he owed no reminder fine, either, but would he please pay up what he didn't owe?

The electronic mishmash was traced to one of the computer's handlers who mistakenly put the tax-exempt student's name into the machine. The computer—obedient although somewhat puzzled—proceeded to dun the lad for nothing. The student survived, but it is rumored the computer is recovering in an electronic rest home.—California Feature Service.

EXPENSIVE? YES! PANACEA? NO!



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Southeast Asia's Power Shifting During Chaos

The coming of communism to a people may take various forms, but it is invariably associated with a chaotic state of society.

This was true of the Communist monoliths, Russian and Chinese, but it also holds for less numerous peoples, and it is hard to name a stable society which has gone Communist.

This may be the significance of the Indonesian crisis. Indonesia's withdrawal from the United Nations is only an outward manifestation of change and trouble for the 100 million people of the archipelago. The foundation of chaos is laid.

In the beginning the demagogic President Sukarno branded his society a "guided democracy," only a name for dictatorship. From the beginning he ruled a large segment of Communists who drove him incessantly left of his original position, which was rationalistic, anti-Dutch colonial.

Like many a dictator, Su-

karno was bedeviled by visionary schemes for salvation and conquest, which distracted him from any common-sense administration of his economy and government. So the Indonesians wallowed ever deeper in corruption, inflation, and failing production, while Sukarno built the second largest armed force in the Far East on borrowed money.

Indonesia is broke. As a Dutch are no longer a power, Sukarno has turned his attention to the British, pointing his attack on the new state of Malaysia. He foments revolution north Borneo, trains guerrillas to land near Singapore. This has become a serious Malaysia has limited night ship movements in Singapore Strait.

Sukarno's agents are also reported to be active in Manila in furthering anti-American sentiment. Moreover, the Australians are concerned with the Sukarno menace north and west, and are building their armed forces.

There is growing doubt if Sukarno still controls Indonesia. There have been recent reports of his ill health, but political ill health is a not uncommon phenomenon in dictatorships.

When Indonesia's withdrawal was announced, Secretary General U Thant asked reconsideration, but it may have been a mistake. Forces beyond Sukarno may be pushing Indonesia out of the neutral bloc to full alliance with Red China, North Korea and North Vietnam.

The Red Chinese need it because their lines of power are uncertain in the southeast, and the Indonesians may need it because, bogged in debt and animus for the West, they have nowhere else to go, and see their only hope as an island empire, including the Philippines, with a bridge on the Malay Peninsula.

In any case, this is what are postulating, and if true, it could presage a power shift over a third of the world.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Some Major Frustrations Of Recent History Told

Unfinished business: Is a history that cannot be completely documented (because it is written too soon after the event) really history? It can be a contribution to history. And if it is a good enough story—charged with intrigue and conspiracy, for example—the author tells it anyway and hopes for the best.

Two current books are good enough as they stand—exciting, informed and convincing. Yet in each, pieces of the jigsaw puzzle are missing. More frustrating, a key principal in each drama might have provided these pieces, but chose to remain silent.

"The Man Who Tried to Kill Hitler" (Coward-McCann; \$4.95) is an intense, researched narrative of the German officers' conspiracy which culminated in an attempt to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944, in the map room of his secret headquarters at Rastenburg, in the forest of East Prussia. Several high officers were killed by a time bomb planted at the conference table. The plot, which might have changed the course of history, of course failed. Sev-

eral principals involved were executed or committed suicide.

There have been previous accounts of this affair, including one by Constantine Fitz Gibbon, William L. Shirer touched on it in "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." Roger Marvell and Heinrich Fraenkel base this dramatic account of anti-Nazi German resistance on evidence and information that has recently come to light. It is an ironic tale of idealism and politics, religion and nihilism told with the pace and tension of Hans Reisner's thriller "The Night of the Generals."

Could General Heusinger, from his NATO office in Washington, D. C. have rounded out the story? Once chief of the German Army General Staff's operations branch and deputy to the Chief of the General Staff, Heusinger was in Hitler's map room at the moment the July 20 bomb went off. With some frustration, the authors report that General Heusinger refused to speak with them about the affair. "Red Pawn," by the Washington Post foreign correspondent Flora Lewis (Dou-

bley; \$4.95), is an account of Hel Field, the former U.S. State Department official, who vanished in Prague in 1939. Subsequently, his brother, his wife and stepdaughter also vanished from points in Europe. Six years later, after the death of Stalin, all four reappeared from separate Communist prisons. Was Noel Field a U. S. spy? A defector? A double-agent? Field and his German-born wife elected to remain in Hungary, silent about a whole affair.

Miss Lewis' research involved much detective work; hundreds of interviews and visits to archives in a dozen countries. The CIA under Allen Dulles, she reports, politely but abruptly refused to reveal anything about this case of mystery, conspiracy and murder. And Noel Field himself, perhaps a pawn in the chess game of international intrigue, refused to meet the author when she arrived at his villa on the Danube in an interview on his side of the story.

She lacks her narrative together soberly and with assurance. But for the complete story, history must

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

There's More to Economy Than Turning Out Lights

SEATTLE — It's not the cunning of the politician, but the credulity of the citizens that makes public "swindles" possible.

When the Administration gets serious about saving a dollar here and there, in addition to turning out the lights in the Executive Department, we refer them to the Rural Electrification Administration, set up by the New Deal in 1935 and now going stronger than ever.

This boondoggle agency is primarily a banker . . . although no private bank operating on the same basis would last six months, let alone the 30 years that REA has been in business.

Here's how the little "game" works. REA borrows the money from the government and lends it to rural power systems, in nearly every case a tax exempt cooperative.

By law, REA is required to lend this money at about 2 per cent interest. But the government has to pay as much as 4.25 per cent interest to borrow money, the average being about 3.5 per cent.

REA has nearly \$4.5 billion in loans outstanding. The difference between paying 3.50 per cent and getting 2 per cent is rather substantial. Of course, the taxpayers make up the difference in this gravy train.

This program was originally designed to provide electricity for farms that didn't have it. But the cooperatives banked by REA now sell power to industry.

As of now, more than 96 per cent of all farms are electrified—yet REA goes on lending hundreds of millions of dollars a year for this purpose.

Now comes the truth why the United States soil-bank monstrosity has not been more successful in holding down the staggering farm surpluses. The U.S. Comptroller's office quietly released some astonishing facts.

For instance, all of the 25 million acres that have gone into the soil bank, about a fourth, or 6.2 million acres, of the "idle land" had never produced any crops at any time.

One report had it that owners of such fallow acreage were paid over \$250 million in the last five years to reduce crops that never existed.

The world seems to use a double standard in judging the United States and the USSR.

Some of it stems from the fact that we are friendly to nations that formerly controlled vast colonial empires and emerging nations tend to identify us with them.

The hatred overlooks the present Soviet colonial empire which subjugates millions behind the Iron Curtain. Another reason may be the price we pay for having a reputation as a more decent nation than Russia.

Small countries fear Russia's wrath . . . knowing from past experiences that they will be devoured in one way or another.

Our decency makes us turn the other cheek and causes us to be insulted (as in the case of Sukarno and Nasser) with impunity.

We have a Federal law requiring that women receive the same pay as men when they do the same work . . . but this is confined only in the areas of interstate commerce under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

This leaves millions of women unprotected and dis-

criminated upon. This is a national disgrace.

The average woman worker today earns about \$3,500 a year as against \$5,500 for men. This is a more compelling offense within the "Great Society" than the pollution of the Potomac River.

It is the United Nations' clear duty, according to the U.N. Charter, to deprive Russia and other nations the right to vote for failure to live up to its provisions of paying up their delinquent financial obligations.

It is the General Assembly's clear duty to take action. But it has not. And that constitutes mockery of the U.N.'s solemn charter.

If it were the U.S. that was delinquent, Russia and her stooges and the neutrals would be shouting their heads off. All that the neutrals are saying now is that Russia ought not to be so naughty.

These neutrals have been yapping of their great in-

fluence within the U.N. and toward the promotion of peace.

Their failure to take any tangible action against Russia and others proves them impotent or indifferent.

Their chief pastime has been to play both ends against the middle . . . to holler communism and expect Uncle Sam to hand them millions . . . or to yelp imperialism and get the Russians to match our grants.

New York City spends \$41,000,000 a year just for the care of 85,000 illegitimate children. Some women have as many as 14 kids.

One illegitimate child might be evidence of an honest mistake. But two or more indicate a habit that should not be encouraged at public expense.

It often has been suggested that after the first illegitimate child, the man and woman should be prosecuted. This may help to hasten the "Great Society."

Our Man Hoppe

LBJ's Address Gives New Hope

By Arthur Hoppe

Mr. Johnson's First Inaugural Address. Which will go down in history.

Some expert commentators see hints of some things in it and other expert commentators see hints of other things.

But, personally I feel one of the most interesting and informed comments, which may have been overlooked, was that of Mr. Jud J. Joad of Appalachia Corners. Mr. Joad is something of an expert on listening to inaugural addresses. This being his only form of recreation.

"Yep," said Mr. Joad, "I been listening to inaugural addresses, man and boy, for nigh on 60 years. My wife, Maude, she's got a liking for them, too. And it don't matter where we are at the time . . . Dust Bowl, Harlan County, or picking beans . . . We find some fellow who's got an old cracked radio. I reckon you could say listening to inaugural addresses every four years has been the high point of our lives."

"So this time Maude and me, we go down to the Appalachia General Store and though we can't afford to buy nothing, the storekeeper says we can listen. Which was sure right kind, because it was a mighty fine inaugural address."

"I liked the way he started off saying these were changing times. Took me back to old Teddy Roosevelt saying the same thing when Maude and me was young. I squeezed her arm, fixing to tell her so, but she says, 'shh. I think he's about to dedicate us all to making this a better world.'"

"Sure enough, that's what he did. So Maude and me, we held hands just like we always do every four years when the President dedicates us to making this a better world. Beats all, how good it makes you feel inside."

"Then I hear him talking about 'sharing the fruits of the land.' And, oh, how my heart leaps up. 'Maude, Maude' I says, all excited. 'He's going to mention us.'"

"'Oh, Jud,' she says, squeezing my hand, you really think he is?'"

"And he surely does. He says us poor folks have got to be fed better and doctored better and given a better deal. Now I'm not saying he said it better than old F.D.R. back in 19 and 32. But I think he said it better than most Presidents have in inaugural addresses in the past 60 years. And I can't tell you how fine it was to hear that the President was still thinking of Maude and me."

"But then, walking home up the dirt road afterward, I got to worrying 'he way I usually do following inaugural addresses. 'Maude,' I says, frowning. 'Do you really think . . .'"

"'Now, Jud,' she says, patting my shoulder. 'I know what's fretting you. But you just got to have faith in the future. I'm sure the President, whoever he is, will mention us again next time.'"

Morning Report:

There is something for everybody in President Johnson's scheme of things, but some people get more of the something than others. Mr. Johnson no doubt is a man of labor and of business, of industry and of agriculture, of war and of peace.

For instance, he is going to ask \$10 million for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and \$50 billion for the Defense Department.

So I don't think anybody has to worry that peace is about to break out on any broad scale. Not as long as disarmament is leading disarming 3,300 to 1. Still, I think it's nice we have a Disarmament Agency. It shows our heart is in the right place.

Abe Mellinkoff