

U. S. Presidential Succession

The first "must" for Congress when it reconvenes in January, is to name those who will have the power to decide when the President—any President—is unable "to discharge the Powers and Duties of said Office" until "the disability be removed."

The Constitution does not state who shall decide when a disability exists. The President, himself, might do so. But suppose he is unable to speak, sign his name, or grasp the importance of pressing events?

No President has ever been as hothead as Mr. Eisenhower about his health, or his possible incapacity. He has asked for the necessary legislation.

Both Lincoln and McKinley died a few hours after they were assassinated. But Garfield lived nearly three months after he was shot by Guitau. Woodrow Wilson

was an almost helpless invalid during the last year and a half of his term and unable to be the leader of his policies.

BUT IN THOSE DAYS, no foreign foe could strike across the ocean in a few hours or minutes. Today, a Vice President may be almost instantly required to give orders for the defense of the nation that will be obeyed at once and without question.

We, all, pray that the President will live out his term in good health. But if not, no one more than he would wish his country to be safe.

It is expected that Congress will attend to this need, on a strictly non-partisan basis, too.

There certainly would be no time to debate this subject after a potential enemy has dropped its first assortment of today's death-dealing H-Bombs!

*** HAPPY NEW YEAR! ***

Our Delusions of Grandeur

How can the U.S. government run the world when it can't make its own Post Office Department pay its way?

How can it run the world when it can't maintain the value of its own money, now at an all time low?

How can Uncle Sam run the world when he can't even begin to pay his debts during the biggest boom years in history?

How can he look after other folks when he can't protect his own folks from strikes that tie up every ship in our ports?

HOW CAN HE MAKE the world behave when he can't make a tenth rate power like Egypt open the Suez Canal to the ships of little Israel?

How can our nation manage the underdeveloped areas of four continents when it can't run the affairs of its own Amer-

ican Indians with justice and decency?

We had a level-headed President once by the name of Benjamin Harrison. He said: "We hold no commission from God Almighty to be the world's policeman."

UNCLE SUFFERS FROM megalomania—delusions of grandeur. So did Napoleon Bonaparte, Alexander the Great and Caesar.

Caesar was stabbed by his "friends"; Alexander's rebellious troops finally told him to lay off; and Napoleon wound up in the "house-gow" at St. Helena.

Uncle Sam has promised to defend 43 foreign nations, and Mr. Nixon has just given us the new continent of Africa to support.

Doesn't charity still "begin at home"?

*** HAPPY NEW YEAR! ***

Demand Fair 'Civic Ball Game'

Let's talk plain American. Tune up your vocal chords and start tooting. Squawk to your Congressman the same as you do in the ball park when you think the umpire has robbed your team.

Do you like the "tax-eaters" who swipe your dough any better than you like the umpire? If not, don't be so polite to them.

The tax bracket runs from 20% to 91%. It's the 20% bracket people who pay 85% of all personal income taxes. If the higher bracket boys and girls were taxed 100%, it wouldn't run the Government two weeks.

Only the lower bracket workers have enough votes to stop the tax racketeers. They have the most to lose. Money isn't everything. But it's way ahead of whatever is second, if you can keep it. And

that's not a barrel of wooden nickels.

THE INCOME TAX fashioned the "sumpin for nuttin' dreamboat" that the leftwing dems started in 1933, to take us down the road to Karl Marx's "Socialism."

We can save enough on non-essential Government spending to build the intercontinental ballistic missiles we need without raising taxes any higher. As a matter of fact, we can build the missiles and reduce taxes, if we have the sense to do it.

So, Friend, start yelling at your Congressman like he was the umpire. You paid enough to get into the ball park, without being robbed. You are entitled to demand that the game be played with fairness and equity to all!

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Your federal government employs 10,000 lawyers; spends about 4 billion \$'s on paper work alone; owns or controls one-quarter of the land area of the United States; and owes 244 billion \$'s in loans, guarantees, insurance and other contingent liabilities, in addition to a direct debt of about 277 billion \$'s. Total debt, direct and indirect, is about 521 billion \$'s. This is more than is owed by all the other nations on the earth, put together!

The News of Alice, Texas, highspots one of the fundamental problems of this age in a brief paragraph: "Every new service and realm of activity that the government takes over costs us more and pushes us one step closer to socialism and the end of freedom as we know it today. We have already lost much of the freedom that our grandfathers knew. We will lose more if we don't stop the growth and power and avarice of our government agencies at once."

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Extra Special Extra



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Life Rests --- In Early Winter

Now in early winter, life prepares for its long rest. Earth's colors are muted, many of its voices are hushed, and its pulse beats in slower rhythm.

But the cold bareness of a winter landscape is only one of nature's delusions. Life is yet secure, although much of it is hidden and silent. It is cloaked in its own special protective patterns for each species of plant and animal which will carry it safely through the hazards of winter.

LIFE'S FIRST LAW is to insure itself, and to accomplish this it has, through the dim vistas of time, taken great pains to develop a special protective pattern for each species of plant and animal which will carry it safely through the hazards of winter.

For no such pattern can be found, the species becomes extinct and another better suited to survival takes its place.

Many are these protective devices of structure and habit which through the long winter. Water, life's earliest protector, yet remains a safe haven for many creatures.

DRIVEN FROM its shadows by layers of ice, they retreat to its warmer depths. The soft sand bottoms of pond and stream are populated with hibernating amphibians and reptiles, with worms, mollusks and crustaceans.

Here nest the eggs and larval cases of myriad of insects which, when mature, may be aquatic or terrestrial. Countless others in many phases of development are safely hidden under bark, buried in soft earth, encased in rotten log or protected by leafmold.

Moths and some species of butterflies lie quiescent through the winter, encased in cocoon or chrysalis, shape of delicate foot, curve of light wing remembered in the drab stuff of life, sealed therein.

BEEES HAVE RETREATED to the hive, ants have tunneled underground. Myriads of insects are killed by frost. But, as is true of wasps and hornets, the female survives to hibernate in crack or crevice, to carry over safely hidden within her body, the already fertilized egg.

The birds, fleet of wing and hollow of bone, are well adapted for the long migration flights which protect them from winter.

The mammals have developed warm blood and heavy coats of fur to insure their lives. The birds, turtles and snakes, remnants of the green reptilian boards of the past, have learned how to hibernate, cold body coiled and inert.

MANY MAMMALS such as the woodchuck, the bear, the ground squirrel and the bat also make good use of the long sleep during which the body lives on stored-up fat as it lies inert in cave or ground tunnel, its respiration and heartbeat all but extinguished.

This is life's pattern for survival, and winter's cold with its attendant rest is a part of it.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
December 27, 1907
"All bills are requested to be paid before January 1, 1908, in order that Birmingham will stand at the head of Michigan State offices in this regard. If you want the manager, operators and company to have a happy New Year, be sure to call and settle."

"The men folk of the M. E. church will give an oyster supper, and all its supplemental food, at the church on Friday afternoon and evening, Jan. 3, '08, from 5 to 8 p.m. Come and see how men cook oysters. Everything clean and comfortable. Fred King is chief, and has a worthy array of skilled men to give the best of satisfaction to all. Everybody invited."

30 YEARS AGO
December 29, 1927
"From The Year's Headlines... Jan. 6 Luther D. Allen elected president of Hills Village, after incorporation."
Feb. 10 Bonds for \$175,000 for new library building let to Highland State Bank and Stronahan, Harris & Otis, Inc. of Detroit.
March 10 Annual report of village manager shows over \$200,000 spent for improvements during 1926.
April 7 James W. Parry appointed village manager.
May 2 Cornerstone of new library laid.
June 2 Hugh Papineau and fiancée Miss Ruth Woodcock, drowned in Long Lake.
July 7 Zoning ordinance passed by Hills village.
Aug. 4 Tracts of business property involving more than million dollars sold. Cousins spends more than half million.
Sept. 1 William Green, motorcycle patrolman, exonerated from all blame in the killing of Edward Reiter, alleged drunken driver.
Oct. 29 Bloomfield Open Hunt Club holds eighth annual hunt.
Nov. 3 Cranbrook school dedicated with Dr. Clarence Cook Lee, president of the University of Michigan, speaker.
Dec. 1 School board joins in drive for safer streets.

15 YEARS AGO
December 23, 1942
"The Eccentric has chronicled the departure of the first soldier,

ANOTHER SINGLE ITEM THIS WEEK, TOO

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A World
Of Happiness
In 1958



ANOTHER SINGLE ITEM THIS WEEK, TOO

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