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CANADIAN NATIONAL

Washington Letter

BY THOMAS L. STOKES

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
WASHINGTON, April 28.—The transfer of power in the House of Representatives from the east where it has lodged for years, to the west or south is one of the probabilities resulting from the death of Speaker of the House Longworth under whose urbane but firm rule the east continued its domination against all challenge.

If the Republicans control the next House the western wing of the party will make a strong bid for the Speakership, which the Ohio Speaker transformed during his regime from the figurehead post which the 1910 revolt left it to a place of commanding power once again. And for several reasons the west is better prepared to make its bid than ever before.

If the Democrats organize and control the next House, the south will be squarely in the saddle again as it was most recently in the Wilson administration, and there is no question about that with the energetic and fiery Democratic Floor Leader John N. Garner of Texas in line for the Speakership and with southerners scheduled for other important posts and virtually all of the committee chairmanships.

In Laps of Gods

Control of the next House is in the laps of the Gods. The death of Longworth only made the final outcome more doubtful. If a democrat is returned from the Cincinnati district he represented for 26 years—and democrats are prepared to make a vigorous fight—and the other two vacancies, one in a normally democratic stronghold, the other in a normally Republican district, are filled as expected, then the count would stand 217 Republicans and 217 Democrats. The odd member upon whose strong young shoulders such responsibility would fall, is Paul Kvale, farmer-labor representative from Minnesota. His vote would decide which party would control the House.

Longworth was re-elected last fall by only 3,507 majority in a total vote of over 97,000.

It is impossible to tell now how the two parties will stand numerically next December when the decision must be made as there may be other deaths before that time. There are on an average of 10 a year. Five have occurred thus far.

The possibility of new power for the west, in event republicans control, is the most interesting from many standpoints. Thus there would be re-enacted in the House a real continuous cat and dog fight between the east and the west that has become so familiar in the senate in the last few years and reached its height there in the tariff battle.

Administration at Disadvantage

Such a situation would be disadvantageous to the administration. There would be no assurance that a Speaker more nearly representing the west would swing his cohorts behind the White House as Longworth did so often and so effectively to checkmate a recalcitrant senate. The Ohio Speaker delivered the vote as he chose and with only one or two exceptions he chose to back up the president.

Westerners bolted against the election of Longworth six years ago, rallying behind the late, Martin Madden of Illinois, chairman of the appropriations committee, but the popular Ohioan beat them to it, and his rule was unchallenged after that time, though there was a small but noisy protest against eastern domination toward the end of the last session.

This was an omen of what may come. For the west is in a better position now. They have had the farm issue for years on which they were united. Now they have the oil issue. Many western states want an embargo or a tariff on oil to protect the independent domestic industry, and the back and forward tug between their representatives and those of the east in the closing days of the last session taxed Longworth's powers of conciliation to the utmost. The east won out.

Western Bloc

The western bloc is in a better position because of the hair-line which will separate the parties numerically when the session begins next December. A handful already have made veiled threats of bolting the

party. Power to throw the control to democrats resides in a small group, and this can be effectively used as a wedge to get what they want.

The first named suggested for Speaker are those of two easterners, Republican Floor Leader John Q. Culison of Connecticut and Chairman Bertrand Snell of New York of the Rules Committee. Tilson lies in the natural order of succession. That is the way Longworth came up. But Tilson has not the popularity that Longworth enjoyed. He was overridden by Longworth on the drought relief and soldier bonus loan issues last season.

Snell has made enemies by his refusal to permit consideration of legislation upon the floor, upon which his committee has the final say. So the two eastern candidates are handicapped from the outset.

Hoch Mentioned

Among westerners mentioned for the Speakership are Representatives Hoch, Kans, who led the unsuccessful oil embargo fight; Ramseyer, Iowa, long a prominent member of the Ways and Means Committee, and Purnell, Ind., ranking republican on the agricultural committee.

There is likely to be a compromise on a candidate such as Hooper or Michener, both of Michigan, with more power given to the west on important committees.

The passing of Longworth may mean a disintegration of the power of the Speaker, which he built up again purely through his personal influence, in event Republicans control. They have no really outstanding figure who can compare with Longworth and a compromise candidate may be necessary.

Immense Wealth Of Match King

(By Friedrich Laudon, United Press Staff Correspondent)

STOCKHOLM, April 27.—Ivar Kreuger, who made a tiny safety match his symbol of success, still guides the policies of his far-flung interests as firmly today as he did before the financial depression.

The "Match King's" factories in Sweden and 29 other countries have been busy while other industries have been slowing down, for the world needs matches at all times.

At the same time, the Swedish Match Trust perhaps the greatest money-lending concern in the world, has continued to reap profits from its loans to governments and real estate investments.

Kreuger was 51 on March 2. His birthday marked the completion of a quarter of a century in the match industry. When first he became interested in the manufacture of matches 25 years ago, he was the director of only two small factories which had belonged to his family. Today he owns or controls 250 factories in 30 countries, producing almost 90 per cent of the world's match supply.

Athletically Inclined

Kreuger is the richest bachelor in the world. He is a clean-shaven, almost bald, but boyish looking, athletically inclined and of a retiring disposition.

When someone asked him the secret of his success, he replied:

"First, silence; second, more silence; third, still more silence."

He has hardly ever violated this rule of life, even with intimate friends and relatives. Once, after a trip to Havana, his sister found a gold medal in his trunk. She asked him what it meant.

"Oh, it's just a souvenir of Havana," he replied.

Afterwards it was discovered that Kreuger had received the medal for diving off the ship and saving a child's life in Havana harbor.

Started in Chicago

Kreuger's first business venture was selling real estate in Chicago while still in her early twenties. Then he became an engineer and built railroads and bridges in Illinois and later in Mexico. In New York he learned American building technique and construction methods. A few years later he constructed a large hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At 27 he returned to Sweden and founded the Kreuger and Toll Real Estate Company. That concern still exists as participating company in the Swedish Match trust, the Swedish Cellulose Company, numerous mines, railroads, Swedish and foreign banks.

Dizzy Headaches and Fainting Spells

Mrs. Lloyd Babcock, Hartington, Ont., writes:—"Some time ago I was all run down in health. I had dizzy headaches, and suffered a great deal with fainting spells. I was advised to try Burdock Blood Bitters and after taking two bottles I felt like a new person."

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He also took over control of two small match factories from his father. From then on he devoted his life to teaching the world to "scratch on the box."

Industry Threatened

In the period just before the war the Swedish match industry was threatened with ruin. There were 60 match companies, cutting each others' throats for the home trade and hardly ever venturing into foreign markets. The only step toward rationalization was the amalgamation of several of the largest concerns to form the Joenkeoping and Vulcan Match Company with a capital of about \$1,000,000.

When Kreuger took over the two factories, he surveyed the entire Swedish industry. He decided at once that the trouble was not in the production side of the industry but

rather in the organization and distribution.

Accordingly he merged his two factories with eight others under the name of the Swedish Amalgamated Match Company. A few years later this concern combined with the Joenkeoping company to form the Swedish Match Company with Kreuger as president. Kreuger introduced American sales and distributing methods, stressing especially the multiple sales principle which so few Europeans have been able to grasp.

Step by step he acquired entire control of the Swedish industry. Then little by little he overcame foreign competition.

It is said that American banking enabled Kreuger to enter international finance on a large scale. After the war governments were in great need of money. The Swedish "Match King" was quick to realize

the vast field for industrial enterprise

to be captured by anyone with an open purse.

Big Loans

The Swedish Match Trust and Kreuger and Toll, therefore, set out to make big loans to governments in return for match monopolies. So successfully did the scheme work that at the end of 1930, the Swedish concerns had complete monopolies in 14 countries and huge trading concessions in many others. In fact, the Trust so crippled its competitors that only the match factories of Soviet Russia could threaten its hold on world markets.

The Trust's operations in Germany furnish a typical example of its methods. In 1929, Kreuger granted the German government a loan of \$125,000,000 in exchange for the match monopoly. The interests of

consumers were guarded by the provision that the price of matches would be raised only one cent per packet of 10 boxes. Thus the government got its money, the public was protected and the Swedish concern received interest on the loan plus the profit on all the matches sold in Germany.

Because of the extraordinary diversity of Kreuger's enterprises, no reliable estimate of his private fortune ever has been made. Even the "Match King" himself could only guess. It is known, however, that Kreuger is himself the largest private investor in his companies.

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"Will I let you," he replied, "Dearest, I'm depending on it!"

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