

LAVAL CONFIDENT IN POLITICAL FEUD

Ousted Vice Premier Convinced That Axis Will Win War
And France Must Act Hastily to Get Best Possible
Role in 'New Europe.'

By RALPH HEINZEN
United Press Staff Correspondent

VICHY, France, Dec. 18.—Pierre Laval, ousted Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of France, does not believe his political career is ended.

That I learned even though he refuses to give the public his own story of the role he played in France the last few days.

I went to Chateldon yesterday afternoon and found Laval watching the butchering of a fat hog under the historic wall of his castle. He also visited his mineral springs and walked his dogs in the sunshine.

The police guard about the castle was lifted shortly before noon and the castle doors were opened to allow the family outside for the first time in three days.

Writer Walks With Him
Immediately villagers, many of whom were schoolmates of Laval, the butcher's son, climbed the steep hill to the castle to offer their sympathy.

I was his only afternoon visitor. I walked with him on his errands to the village and heard his story of the happenings of Friday, the 13th, which led to the overthrow of the man who shared with Marshal Pétain the feat of having completed a national revolution in six months without shedding a drop of blood.

In his native village where his birthplace is now the postoffice, alongside the steep road leading to the castle, Laval is "Pierre" to all. The butcher, cutting up a freshly killed pig, wiped his red hands on his apron to salute his school mate.

Across the village square Laval pointed out the family gray monument to the village World War dead—more than 40. Engraved with other names is that of Laval's brother, Capt. Jean Laval, killed in action. The death of his brother had always greatly influenced Laval's attitude on international affairs and prompted many of his pacifist efforts.

He is not forbidden to talk but refuses to say for quotation anything about his overthrow or his confinement to his castle.

Distrusts Britain
He still believes France will fulfill his agreement with Joachim von Ribbentrop, German Foreign Minister, which was the basis for the pact of collaboration reached by Pétain and Hitler. He remains convinced that France's only future is to collaborate with Germany and Italy in the formation of a "new order" in Europe.

Laval is a continental by blood and sympathy. He distrusts Britain, as an Auvergne peasant, because he says these peasants have been forced to fight off the English too many times in past centuries. Chateldon itself was the scene of a bloody battle, pictured in vivid colors in tapestries on the walls of the great dining hall of his castle, during the hundred years' war. The bones of the slain are still

uncovered when the gardener digs too deeply in the vegetable gardens or on the castle slopes.

Laval is absolutely convinced that France's role is continental. He feels that France can gain nothing by voluntarily isolating herself from Europe and trying to exist solely as an Atlantic nation. It is that conviction which inspired his desire to try to reach friendly understandings with France's immediate neighbors, Germany, Italy and Spain.

He is convinced that Germany and Italy will win the war eventually. He is convinced that nothing can keep Hitler and Mussolini from reorganizing the map of Europe to fit their theories and he feels France must have the biggest role in that direction.

U. S. Friendship Desired
Laval has hopes that France may some day be the agent to effect reconciliation of the United States with Europe—a role he has dreamed he might be able to play personally due to his family and what he calls his great affection for America.

(Laval's daughter is the wife of Count Rene de Chambrun, descendant of Lafayette and citizen of the United States as well as France.) As Laval leaves office he still hopes that the United States can avoid being drawn into the war and he considers that America's role is that of a center for peace and hopes France, now defeated and disarmed, can guide or help the United States in that direction.

COAL MEN APPROVE ADVERTISING FUND

CHICAGO, Dec. 18 (U. P.).—Coal producers from Illinois and adjacent territories today endorsed the three-year advertising program of the National Coal Association which would spend \$900,000 a year to promote the sale of the bituminous output.

More than 200 producers and representatives of allied interests approved the plan presented by C. C. Dickinson, president of the association, which would gather funds for the campaign by subscriptions based on tonnage. The fund would be administered by Bituminous Coal, Inc., an affiliate formed by the national association.

We have failed to present the bituminous coal industry in its true light, that of a progressive, important, basic industry, manned and managed by as capable a lot of industrialists as can be found in American industry," Mr. Dickinson said, in explaining the need for the advertising campaign.

Trains as Pilot



This snappy soldier is Don Brown, son of famed film comedian, Joe E. Brown. Already a lieutenant of infantry, young Brown is pictured at the Army primary flight training center, Ontario, Cal., where he has begun a nine-month flying course.

28 LEGISLATURE WORKERS NAMED

61-Day Jobs in House Are
Given by Patronage
Committee.

Twenty-eight employees of the Indiana House of Representatives for the 61-day session, opening Jan. 9, have been appointed by the House Patronage Committee.

They are Elmer Eusan, Washington, assistant doorkeeper; Miss Fern Norris, Indianapolis, calendar clerk; Harper McCune, Hartford City, reading clerk; Harry Neanover, Elwood, registry clerk; Harlan Kays, Princeton, roll call clerk; W. O. Pledler, Logansport, indexing clerk; Charles L. Michaels, Kokomo, file clerk; R. White, Zionsville, assistant file clerk.

Engrossers Chosen

Mrs. Vera Bevers, Danville, and Miss Mabel Humphrey, Greensburg, engrossing room clerks; Dewey Cook, Campbellsburg, postmaster; Mrs. Ruth Gross, Martinsville, assistant postmaster; Houston Gossett, Mecca, bookkeeper; Mrs. Frieda B. Peavler, Indianapolis, journal stenographer; Harry Clearwater, Indianapolis, payroll clerk; Cooper Clifton, Covington, engrossing clerk; Frank Burrell, Indianapolis, journal clerk; Mrs. Marjorie Lahr, Indianapolis, assistant engrossing clerk; Clarence Suggs, Indianapolis, custodian.

Stenographers Named

Stenographers appointed were: Mrs. Virginia Foreman, Marshall; Miss Veda Berry, Goshen; Miss Margaret Gulp, Michigantown; Miss Beatrice Farrington, Gas City, and Mrs. Vera Bennett, Warsaw.

Proofreaders named were: Miss Francis McMillan, Indianapolis; J. Melvin McHaffie, Clayton; Miss Bernice Magentimer, Indianapolis, and Donald Nelson of LaGrange.

OPEN INQUEST IN OHIO EXPLOSION

Firemen Believe Gas Leak or
Fluid Caused Blast
Fatal to 13.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 18 (U. P.).—A coroner's inquest began today into the cause of the explosion which reduced two tenement-business buildings into shambles and killed 13 persons yesterday.

Mrs. Julia Koebe, widow of one of the victims, will be one of the first witnesses. Coroner Frank Coppock seeks to find out what her husband, Joseph P. Koebe, was doing in his appliance shop in the basement of one of the buildings at time of the explosion at 2:25 a. m. (Indianapolis Time). Mr. Koebe was the only victim fully clothed.

Firemen resumed their digging in the wreckage in the long chance that the body of Jack Campbell, 41, business partner of Mr. Koebe, may be buried there.

After an all-day investigation, firemen leaned toward two theories as to the cause of the blast—a leak in a gas line in the buildings or an explosion of some fluid.

Urge a Clean City During the Holidays



Signs warning Indianapolis residents that the Christmas season is one when efforts to keep the City clean should be intensified rather than relaxed appeared in public buildings and on streets. They were sponsored by the Mayor's Civic Pride Committee. Mrs. J. Francis Huffman (left) and Mrs. Lowell S. Fisher, chairman of the Christmas Project Group of the Committee, are helped by Street Commissioner Wilbur Winship in placing one of the signs in the City Hall. Mrs. Georgia Little is the third member of the sponsoring group.

DUKE 'WILLING' IF HE IS ASKED.

But London Sources Say
Chances Are One in
2,000,000.

MIAMI, Dec. 18 (U. P.).—The Duke of Windsor went back to his job as Governor of the Bahamas today, ready to be Ambassador to the United States if Britain feels he is the man to best serve it and the United States.

"I have not been offered the post of British Ambassador to the United States," he said, before sailing for home, "but if it were offered to me, I certainly would accept."

He and the Duchess sailed late yesterday in the yacht Southern Cross for Nassau where they arrive today.

She has virtually recovered from the extraction of the abscessed molar.

LONDON, Dec. 18 (U. P.).—Well-informed sources, commenting on a statement by the Duke of Windsor that he would accept the post of Ambassador to Washington if asked, said today that there was hardly a chance in 2,000,000 that he would be.

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neatly.
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\$1.25 A WEEK

\$67.50

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and two
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Both Rings
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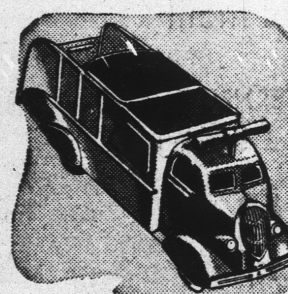
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