

Johnson a Teetotaler But Smokes Heavily And Delights in Folks

New Defense Secretary May Get Dictatorial Powers Over Armed Forces

By JIM G. LUCAS, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Mar. 7.—Because he stepped into a job no one else wanted, Louis A. Johnson, 58, the new Defense Secretary, finally got one he has wanted for years.

Mr. Johnson, a former Assistant Secretary of War and American Legion Commander, will succeed James V. Forrestal on Mar. 31. President Truman said Army Secretary Kenneth Royall, Air Secretary W. Stuart Symington and Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan would stay.

Mr. Johnson has been chairman of the Democratic National Finance Committee, a job Mr. Forrestal and others turned down. And Mr. Johnson raised \$1.5 million for the presidential campaign.

Mr. Johnson is tall (over six feet), heavy (about 200 pounds) and partly bald. His voice is a moderate tenor, and he uses it to call people by their first names soon after they meet. He doesn't drink.

Liquor Cabinet Dry

On his 58th birthday recently, the girls of the Democratic National Finance Committee threw a surprise party in his office. They brought in a cake, a pot of coffee and, as a gift, a liquor cabinet.

The cabinet never held any spirits, although Mr. Johnson continues to remind himself he ought to buy some for guests. He enjoyed the party immensely, ate three pieces of cake and playfully demanded the girls sign his birthday card "with love."

He smokes heavily, a pipe, Havana favored by Winston Churchill. He's proud of his law firm, Steptoe and Johnson, which still lists his name as "second all though the senior partner has been dead for years. He likes to recall the friends he's made; a letter from Indian premier Pandit Nehru is framed on his office wall.

He probably could have got his choice of jobs. But he wanted only one—the one he finally got. He has been interested in the military since soon after the world War I armistice when he wrote General Pershing about what was wrong with the army.

Probable Staff

Undoubtedly, he will be more President Truman's man than Mr. Forrestal was. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Truman were World War I doughboys—both came out majors—and they see things alike.

Several moves are afoot to give the Defense Secretary more power just as Mr. Johnson takes office. Some would make him virtual dictator over the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Hoover Commission wants him to have absolute authority over the joint chiefs of staff, over the \$15 billion military budget and the three service secretaries.

Mr. Johnson probably will bring in his own staff. He rates three administrative assistants. One of his first appointees probably will be Paul Griffith, Scranton (Pa.) Republican and, like Mr. Johnson, a former Legion commander. Mr. Griffith served with Mr. Johnson in the Legion, the War Department and in India.

Mr. Johnson was an assistant secretary from 1937 to 1940. He said he was promised the secretary's job if President Roosevelt could ease out Harry Woodring, former Kansas governor. Mr. Roosevelt never could and the switch was never made.

Relations Cooled

Relations between Mr. Woodring and Mr. Johnson were cool for more than two years. Mr. Woodring, Mr. Johnson later told a congressional committee, was a "sincere pacifist." Mr. Johnson was for preparedness.

The assistant secretary drew up an industrial mobilization plan. Mr. Woodring read about it in the papers. The World War II draft law was prepared by Mr. Johnson and Charles Edison, then Assistant Navy Secretary.

In 1947, Mr. Johnson told the Senate War Investigating Committee that Mr. Woodring, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and Lt. Gen. Brentnall, former head of Army Service Forces, blocked his mobilization plans.

In 1939, Senator H. Styles Bridges (R. N. H.), now ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, criticized Mr. Johnson for "undermining" Mr. Woodring. Senator Bridges' opposition confirmed Mr. Johnson.

In 1940, Mr. Woodring was replaced by Henry L. Stimson, a Republican. Six weeks later, Mr. Johnson resigned.

Goes To India

He subsequently served as chairman of the U. S. advisory mission to India, and was active behind scenes in Sir Stafford Cripps' British-Indian independence negotiations.

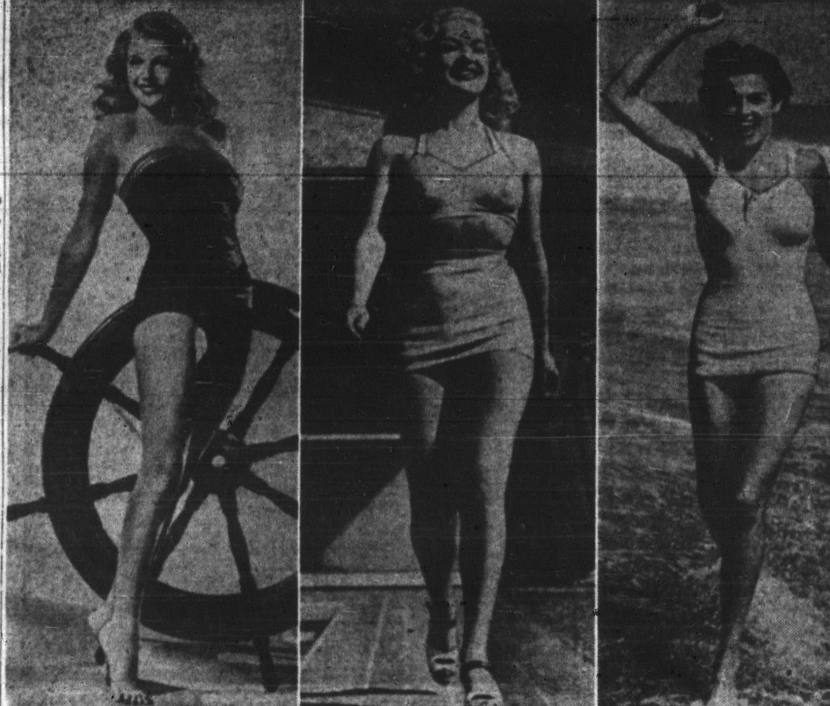
In 1942, the Allen Property Custodian made him president of General Dyeuff Corp. He still serves as board chairman. Since then, he has practiced law in Washington and West Virginia.

Mr. Johnson was born in Roanoke, Va., and attended the State University where he was a champion wrestler, orator and president of his law class. At 26, he was elected to the West Virginia legislature.

He was thinking of running for governor when World War I came. He entered the Army, and served as a combat captain for a year. In 1932, he was elected national American Legion commander. He is now a reserve lieutenant colonel.

He is married and has two daughters. He spends his week-ends in West Virginia, but during the week is in his Washington office only a few blocks from the White House. When President Truman announced his appointment he was in New York on business. He has been president of Rotary International and head of the Clarksville, W. Va., Elks. He is a Mason and Episcopalian.

Why Men Turn for Second Look



ARTIST ALBERTO VARGA, famed for his delineations of feminine pulchritude (cheesecake paintings, to you), has a theory that the story of a girl's character and personality can be read in the contour of her limbs. He says "leg-istry" has it all over palmistry. Above are three Hollywood lovelies whose character he discerns by diligent "leg-reading." (Read Erskine Johnson, Page 18.)

RITA HAYWORTH: "... less legs have a high sweeping instep, a gradually sloping line that reveals love of home life..."

BETTY GRABLE: "... a less passionate instep, a gradually sloping line that reveals love of home life..."

JANE RUSSELL: "... long, efficient foreleg which shows a love of outdoors, physical activity and nature..."

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Flood Sets Record In Missouri Thaw

2 Die as Waters Covers 175,000 Acres

By United Press
Missouri Valley residents fought to save their homes today as the "Big Muddy" and its tributaries surged to record levels at some points, flooded 175,000 acres, and left at least two persons dead.

The Missouri's giant ice gorges broke Saturday and Sunday, creating a week end of terror for lowland dwellers in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas as pent-up waters poured downstream, rolling the cakes of rotten ice on their turbulent crests.

At Atchison, Kas., the river crested at 22.8 feet, an all-time record six feet over flood stage. Then the river dropped rapidly more than four feet as the crest passed. The previous record was 26.4 feet set in 1881.

River experts said the ice break-up permitted the river to flow from Nebraska City, Neb., south below Kansas City. This section included most of the danger zone.

40 Levees Broken

The U. S. Engineers office at Kansas City reported that the river knocked out 40 levees and flooded 175,000 acres in the four states.

They warned that the cakes of ice rushing downstream might jam and cause dangerous flood conditions "anywhere at any time."

The river was climbing relentlessly to a new crest at St. Joseph, Mo., where it was expected to hit 21 feet today.

Today's Weather Fotocast

COLD AIR FRONT LOW WINDY
PORTLAND GREAT FALLS MILWAUKEE DETROIT NEW YORK
SAN FRANCISCO DENVER KANSAS CITY ST. LOUIS
TULSA MEMPHIS ATLANTA
FORT WORTH
PARTLY CLOUDY AND CLOUDY ARIAS
FOTOCAST
LEGEND
SCATTERED SHOWERS
SLEET
SNOW SHOWERS AND FLURRIES
AFFECTED AREA
SNOW
RAIN

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TODAY AND TOMORROW—Milder southern winds over the Great Plains states will increase flood hazards along the Missouri River, but temperatures will be cool in the East and the Carolinas and Georgia can expect frost. Lows will be in the 30's in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky. The weather will moderate as the cold high pressure center over Alabama moves toward the Atlantic.

Official Weather

UNITED STATES WEATHER BUREAU
Mar. 7, 1949
Summary 6:10 a.m. Sunday 5:45 a.m.
Precipitation 24 hours ending 5:30 a.m.
Excess since Jan. 1... 1.15
The following table shows the temperature in other cities:
High Low
Boston 43 33
Chicago 39 29
Cincinnati 48 38
Cleveland 39 29
Denver 35 25
Detroit 41 31
Indianapolis 41 31
Los Angeles 67 47
Miami 71 51
New Orleans 78 51
New York 40 30
Oklahoma City 61 41
Pittsburgh 49 39
San Antonio 60 40
San Francisco 47 37
St. Louis 48 38
Washington D. C. 48 38

Elect Ivan H. Morgan 9th District GOP Head

NORTH VERNON, Mar. 7.—Ivan H. (Jack) Morgan of Austin has been elected Ninth District Republican chairman to succeed his father, the late Ivan C. Morgan.

Mr. Morgan, president of the Morgan Packing Co., was elected unopposed at a meeting here Saturday which was attended by Congressman Earl Wilson, Huron Republican. The elder Mr. Morgan was district head for more than 15 years. He died Feb. 26 in Louisville.

U. S. Statement

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7 (UP).—Government expenses and receipts for the current fiscal year through Mar. 4, compared with a year ago:

| | This Year | Last Year |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Expenses | \$21,880,798,488 | \$22,276,436,472 |
| Receipts | \$20,000,824,517 | \$21,234,277,385 |
| Surplus | \$1,879,973,971 | \$1,042,341,137 |
| Cash Bal. | \$4,484,524,094 | \$3,727,997,864 |
| Public Debt | \$25,119,182,753 | \$24,233,528,800 |
| Gold Res. | \$4,289,401,906 | \$3,436,103,963 |

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Boys' Gabardine BOXERS \$3.98

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Fine comb yarn in bright colored stripes or solid colors for spring. Sizes 2 to 8.

Girls' Blouses \$1.39

Cotton broadcloth in a nice selection of style, ruffled yokes, push up sleeves, eyelet and braid trimming. Sizes 3 to 6½, 7 to 14 at \$1.59.

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The only Ankle with REAL CHARMS!
Easily Removed for Laundering!
Assorted pastel and dark shades. Sizes 6 to 7½. Others up to size 11. MAIL ORDERS FILLED.

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\$2.59 EACH

A nationally advertised famous make. Linen color. Choice of patterns with scalloped edges. Attractive center and border designs. Their tiny imperfections are scarcely noticeable. Spots are easily sponged off and they launder beautifully.

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Men's All-Wool SUITS

Reg. \$39.95 Values

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A wonderful selection of men's and young men's suits of all wool. Well tailored—full cut of long wearing wardrobe in neat patterns of brown, blue and grey. Single or double breasted. Sizes 35 to 44.

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Star Store, Street Floor

FROM OUR DOWNSTAIRS STORE

50-In. DRAPERY SATEEN LINING

Actual 89c Value

69c

50 in. Fine quality drapery sateen. Closely woven. Mercerized finish. Light ecru shade. Cut from full bolts.

39 Inches Wide UNBLEACHED SHEETING 19c

68x72 Thread Woven
68x72 Thread-woven 39-inch unbleached sheeting. Closely woven thread. Ideal for general household uses. Regular 29c a yard.

FROM THIRD FLOOR

Apartment Size GAS RANGE \$59.95

4 burner white porcelain. 16 inch porcelain lined oven with broiler.

GAS RANGE

Regular \$98.00 Value
Divided top, automatic lighter, oven control. Rust proof 16 in. oven. Easy to broil. All oven white porcelain.

\$69.95

Cash or Terms

"Beats" Rheumatism

Check Pain "Beats" is a F... When standing... Lumbago, Neur... plagues you day after... smart and take depend... praised by thousands... tor's formula. It's a... well-known for their... blessed, happy and... enhancing muscular... want to feel on the... ment, but you MUST... three does do not rel... born rheumatism or si... sate satisfaction your... Don't suffer. Ask drugg...

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