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## Spain Is Preparing To Become Monarchy Again, Franco Says

By the Associated Press.  
MADRID, July 18.—Generalissimo Francisco Franco last night proclaimed that he is only acting as head of the Spanish government pending return to a monarchy which would perpetuate Falange ideals and the national syndicalist state.

In a 35-minute speech to members of the Falange National Council Franco said Spain was entering the preparatory period for return of a monarchy, but he did not say when the changeover would be made. He declared the monarchy must guarantee the "essentials" of the Falange movement.

(In Washington diplomats regarded Franco's statement as a move designed to maintain himself in power and at the same time ride out criticism from the Allied world, and particularly Russia. They said it was a question whether this storm would be stirred—possibly by Premier Stalin at the current Big Three meeting at Potsdam—to a point where Franco would be blown out of power.)

**Offer to Don Juan.**  
Franco's speech apparently constituted an offer to Don Juan, 32, son of Alfonso XIII, to accept the throne. Should Don Juan—now in Switzerland—refuse, the Duke of Madrid might be a candidate. The Duke claims to be "Carlos VIII."

Franco, in declaring that the nation was heading toward the traditional form of Spanish political government, said "the institution we are to forge must prove stronger than the mistakes which may be made by individual rulers. The best law will be of no avail if the Falangist spirit weakens."

Franco said, "We must fix our succession in accord with the majority of Spaniards. I must declare that there is no room for option in the regime to be chosen, which is the traditional regime and which I defended repeatedly."

**Aware of Dangers.**  
"I always said that we were going by steps toward it. I am not ignorant of the dangers of this step, but I am certain that this monarchy must have the guarantee to incarnate our greatest monarchs."

The generalissimo, discussing outside attacks on Spain, said they stemmed from the so-called "liberal democracy of France and Communism generally."

"Communism is the negation of everything in Spain's national life which is Catholic, proud, intelligent and based on individual liberty," he declared.

Franco asserted the Spanish regime maintained an "independent policy throughout the war," and said that President Roosevelt and the British government had paid tribute to Spain's nonbelligerency.

## Eire Is Independent, De Valera Tells Dail

By the Associated Press.  
DUBLIN, July 18.—Prime Minister Eamon de Valera yesterday told the Dail (Parliament) that "Eire is an independent republic associated as a matter of her external policy with the states of the British Commonwealth."

Explaining Eire's constitutional position after promising last week to elaborate on a cryptic assertion that Eire was a republic, Mr. de Valera cited five constitutional articles, including the one which states to be "sovereign, independent and democratic."

"We are an independent republic since December 19, 1937, the day our new constitution came into operation," he asserted.

Replying to Opposition Leader James Dillon's question of last week, "Are we or are we not a member of the British Commonwealth?" the Prime Minister said:

"This is a question for which the material necessary for a conclusive answer is not fully available. 'Statesmen of the commonwealth have, I think, adopted the view of Joseph Demaree that 'in all systems there are relationships which it is wiser to leave undefined.'"

## Ellender Demands Probe Of Chennault Retirement

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)  
By the Associated Press.  
Senator Ellender, Democrat, of Alabama demanded today an investigation of the circumstances of Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's retirement from the Army Air Forces in China.

Senator Ellender, asserting the explanation for replacing Gen. Chennault "is clothed in secrecy," told the Senate it must have been a "great disappointment" to the founder of the "Flying Tigers."

"He was not a graduate of West Point and it is well known that they look down on Reserve officers," Senator Ellender said. "Genius and heroism can't be taught. There may have been a great injustice done here to a great general."

In a resolution Senator Ellender asked the Military Affairs Committee to make an inquiry.

## Maj. Gen. W. E. R. Covell Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster

Maj. Gen. William E. R. Covell, 3000 Thirty-ninth street N.W., has been awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal for distinguished service as commanding general, Services of Supply, in the India-Burma theater of operations from November, 1943, to May, 1945, it was reported by the Army.



**PEARL HARBOR 'VICTIM' SLUGS JAPS AGAIN**—Shown is the forward deck of the battleship Nevada after she was struck by a Jap suicide plane off Okinawa on March 27. Despite 60 casualties and heavy damage, the ship was out of the firing line for only four hours, and still carries on against the enemy. A week after this blow she knocked out a Jap shore battery. —Official Navy Photo.

## Nevada (Continued From First Page.)

with a formidable shore battery. The Japs fired 24 shells, 5 of which registered, during the 16-minute duel. The battleship lost 2 men, and 16 of her crew were injured, 8 seriously.

During the brief exchange, however, the Nevada laid down 71 shells from her 14-inch batteries on the Jap installations. When the fight was over the silenced Jap shore positions, according to the Navy, "resembled a gravel quarry after a week's blasting."

The ship's damage was repaired overnight and the next morning she was back on the firing line, joining with the other fleet units in laying down the deadly barrage which played a big part in the final reduction of the Japanese stronghold.

Although, for reasons of security, little has been said by the Navy about the Nevada's battle history

## \$500,000,000 Saved By Salvage Squadron Since Pearl Harbor

Ships and cargo valued at \$500,000,000 were saved by the Pacific Fleet Salvage Squadron between Pearl Harbor and May 1 of this year, Capt. Lebbeus Curtis, Buffalo, N. Y., Pacific Fleet salvage officer, said here today. Capt. Curtis has just returned to Washington after completing salvage operations off Okinawa.

Capt. Curtis said the Okinawa campaign was one of the toughest jobs faced by the unit under his command. During a 57-day period, starting six days before the invasion, assistance was given 823 vessels.

during the present war, it is now revealed that she has been most active.

She was badly blasted at Pearl Harbor, but after repairs at Puget Sound returned to the fleet in time to take part in the reconquest of the Aleutians in May, 1943. She later was refitted at the Norfolk Navy Yard and arrived in European waters in April, 1944, as one of the three American battleships supporting the invasion of France.

Between D day, June 6, and June 15 she was constantly in action supporting the Normandy invasion. She then sailed into the Mediterranean to shell Toulon and Marseilles during the landing in Southern France.

Late last year the Nevada returned to the Pacific again after reconditioning at Norfolk and hit some Japs before the Japs at Iwo Jima.

Next year the Nevada will celebrate her 30th birthday.

## House Measure Proposes Dental Institute Here

Construction in the District of a \$1,000,000 building to house a national institute of dental research is proposed in a bill introduced yesterday by Representative Priest, Democrat, of Tennessee.

The Priest measure, a companion bill to that offered in the Senate in January by Senator Murray, Democrat, of Montana also would authorize an annual appropriation of \$750,000 for operation of the proposed institute.

The institute, devoted to promotion of dental science, would be directed by a six-man council of which the surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service would be chairman.

## A Lecture on Central America ILLUSTRATED IN KODACHROME By Otto Highfield of Chicago Stratford Room, The Sheraton Hotel 15th and L Streets N.W. Thursday Evening, July 19 Sponsors of Evangelical Covenant Church

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## Virginia Boy, 18, Shot Accidentally by Neighbor

Richard Dellenger, 18, of Fairfax, Va., was shot accidentally in the abdomen yesterday while standing on the front porch of his home, police reported today. He was reported in an undetermined condition at Emergency Hospital where he was taken after the shooting.

Police said young Dellenger was hit by a stray bullet from a rifle being used by Garland Robey, 16, who lives nearby. Police said the Robey boy was shooting at a target about 100 yards from the Dellenger house.

## D. C.-Rehoboth Flights Start Again Tomorrow

By the Associated Press.  
REHOBOTH BEACH, Del., July 18.—Air service between Washington and this Delaware resort will be restored tomorrow with stopovers scheduled at Easton, Md., and Georgetown, Del.

Rehoboth Air Service officials said the restoration was made possible by sale of the airfield here to Aircrafters, Inc., of Silver Spring, Md.

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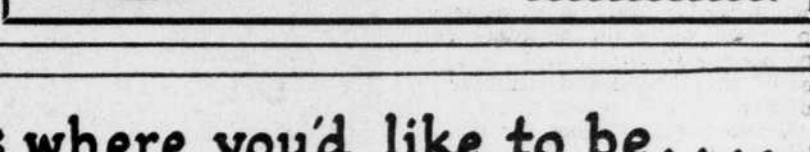
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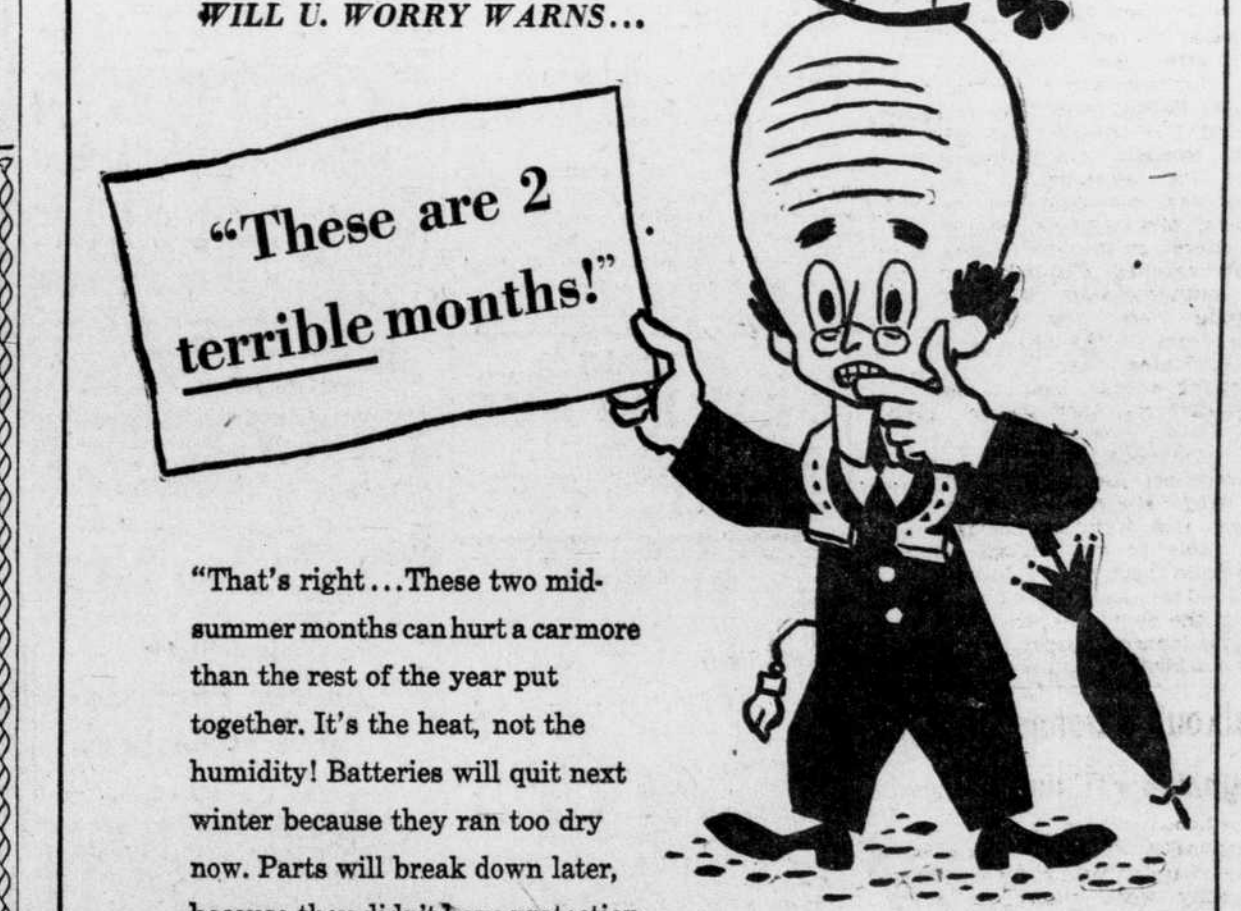


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