

Choctaw Indians Want Own Chief

NEW YORK, N.Y. — For the third time in six years the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has gone hat-in-hand to Washington to battle for the privilege of electing their own Principal Chief, instead of having this officer appointed by the Secretary of the Interior without the consent of the Indians. The outcome is still in doubt.

That is, the leaders of the Choctaw Indians would have gone hat-in-hand and in person, says the Association on American Indian Affairs, if the Interior Department had not told them to write a letter instead of sending a delegation to explain their desire for a democratic election and how such an election could be held at no cost to the taxpayers of the United States.

Balloting Costly

Harry W. Belvin, Durant, Okla., the present Principal Chief, who has survived in this post during the past two elections, states that he was informed in a letter from Roger Ernst, assistant secretary of the Interior, that the Department considers the balloting process too costly, although this cost would be paid out of Choctaw Nation funds.

According to Belvin, Secretary Ernst also said that election was impractical because of the difficulty of locating current mailing addresses of some individual Choctaws.

Oliver La Farge, president of the Association on American Indian Affairs, which has twice before successfully gone to bat for the Choctaws on this same issue, commented as follows: "If democracy can be ruled out for the Choctaws on the ground it is expensive and inefficient, a frightening thing will have happened in America.

"Of course democracy is expensive! The glory of our people, including the Choctaws, is their insistence upon paying the cost. Of course democracy is expensive. It is the system of government of free, unregimented men."

Under a 1906 Act of Congress the Secretary of the Interior has the authority, delegated by the President, to appoint the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation without the content of the Choctaw people.

Colored Nation Is Recognized

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, W. I. — Reveling that West Indian ministers have already established contact with Ghana, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Venezuela, Canada and the U.S., Sir Edward Beethan, Governor of Trinidad, upon opening the 1958-59 session of the Legislative Council, said the West Indies Federation, the world's newest colored nation, has been given the assurance that its domestic rights will be respected and that a career will be open to any of its people with talent, irrespective of race, color, class or creed.

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In 1934 the Indians were encouraged to hold a convention in the heart of the old Choctaw Nation territory in Oklahoma, and nomination and election were immediately followed by Interior Department appointment.

Thereafter, until 1952, the right of the Choctaws to designate their own Principal Chief was considered established, and Interior Department appointment was regarded as nominal.

In a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, dated Oct. 21, La Farge described impediments put in the way of democratic balloting by the Choctaws since 1952 as "both ludicrous and sinister."

Ghana Government Faces Opposition

A showdown of a major character seems imminent between Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah and his political opponents in Ghana. The recent attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister and overthrow the government by force brings into focus the internal struggle for power.

Dissident interests had been at work even before Great Britain had relinquished its grip on the former Gold Coast Colony. Independence was not achieved without inner intrigues, machinations and all associated evils which usually attend the birth of a new nation.

This was anticipated by Dr. Nkrumah, for the allusion, in his autobiography, to means imposed by the necessity of political change, foreshadowed a clash of power. He wrote: "Even a system based on social justice and a democratic constitution may need backing up during the period following independence by emergency measures of a totalitarian kind."

The Prime Minister believes, correctly, that unification of the people is essential to the economic and social well-being of the new-born state. Surely no one who is honestly concerned with democratic process and security can question the validity of that thesis. For history can testify to the devastation wrought to nations whose citizens were divided by selfish motives.

The American Civil War of 1861, the French Revolution of 1789, and in recent years, the Spanish Civil War of 1936, are among history's classic examples of tragic consequences of internal strife.

Much of the opposition to Dr. Nkrumah comes from the chiefs of the warlike Ashanti tribesmen who want to preserve their primitive traditions and tribal authority against the progressive modernism of the new central government. However, there is ground for suspecting that the fire of opposition is fanned clandestinely by foreign elements eager to discredit the Nkrumah administration.

There is a segment of the British press which has been feeding its London readers with the uninterrupted criticism of Ghana. Nkrumah's government has been accused of socialistic tendencies, of flirting with Marxism and of looking toward Moscow as the road to economic salvation. Political and economic developments to date negate these charges.

The evidence is preponderant that Prime Minister Nkrumah's primary concern is with raising Ghana to the front rank of all free, independent and enlightened nations. The reforms already instituted point eloquently to the objective of an African state free from the political encroachments of foreign domination in the guise of a Trojan Horse.

MUNICH, Germany — (UPI) — American novelist John Steinbeck, in a message broadcast to the Communist satellite nations Monday, called Russian critics of author Boris Pasternak "the pallbearers of Soviet literature."

Vacate Little Rock Because of Schools

By Jack V. Fox

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (UPI) — A long-distance moving company in one week recently moved nine families out of Little Rock. In that week, it moved one new family into the city. It is a mark of the fact that no one here today sees a way out of the deadlock that has shut the four high schools and may before long affect the lower grades.

The determination to keep Negro and white students separate, no matter the price, seems stronger than it was before Gov. Faubus closed the high schools to defy federal integration orders.

There are two main impressions an outsider receives today on a visit

to Little Rock.

First is that the majority here support Faubus and that they include conscientious and reputable people through certainly not all. As of now, the politician who advocates the "moderate" approach is a dead duck.

Terrible Waste

The second is the sickening waste. Magnificent Central high school stands empty, its teachers reporting daily with nothing to do, its laboratories and libraries ready for use, while a few blocks away children attend a former orphanage now used as a makeshift private high school.

A side impression is the fear that exists on the part of many of those who oppose keeping the schools closed to speak their mind. Mrs. Byron House, Jr., a housewife with four small children, is one of the few who will. She has no answer to the integration dilemma but is trying to organize mothers just to open the schools.

Mrs. House says dozens of women are afraid to join this women's emergency committee lest their husbands lose their jobs or their businesses are harmed.

Little Rock is without a school board since the mass resignation 10 days ago of five members who expressed their "utter hopelessness, and frustration" in trying to obey federal orders to integrate.

School superintendent Virgil Blossom also has been let go.

Voodoo Dolls Are Hoodooed

WASHINGTON — The United States Public Health Service warned last week that there is a hoodoo connected with a tupe of voodoo dolls imported from Haiti.

The dolls, which have heads carved from cashew nuts and which are used primarily as swizzle sticks, were reported by PHS as containing an oil which is similar to that of poison ivy. Blisters and skin irritations were developed by volunteers who were tested with bits of the shell from the nuts.

The agency said that the eyes of the dolls are even more dangerous, having been made from jequirity beans, which if swallowed, are capable of causing serious illness or even death in a small child.

The study of the dolls followed a recent outbreak of allergy symptoms affecting 50 pupils in an Atlanta, Ga., high school.

SEASON'S GREETINGS...

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The only thing old, old custom is too often shifts getting. Are you getting, which seems into? Now be honest out hints, which are one couldn't miss must have a new Christmas. Or new dress, or new think you need? stopped to think t parents cannot afford with rising costs are.

If you would make Christmas for your family resolve right gracefully the gifts. You know your partner given you what remember that making your face anxious her package. It hurts are disappointed. So what you wanted not even for a second.

To be truly happy time forget the doll of the Christmas your way. The wooden knitted gloves that for you should be priceless gifts. Remember lots of love knitted and even though for her to knit not enough of you to knit anyway.

If you were lucky lot of Christmas give you any reason boasting about their assured your friend for it, and can you at Christmas time your manners and consideration for other.

Wrap each of you fully as you can. Look like a million dollars up in a glamor paper, bows, ribbons.

Another way of true Christmas spirit your Christmas gifts ever possible. That is something of your gifts.

Help mother in preparation day feast. You can prepare the vegetable living room, or any will aid her. Put service and don't be pitch in. The two together can have a that is if you do it. Remember that Christmas is a time to give.

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