

■ Death has transformed political scene in America.

THE CRUEL LESSONS OF FORTUNE AND CAPRICE

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History seems determined to teach this nation that it must make more provision for fortune and caprice.

All our assumptions, even about human ability and mortality, are subject to error. Franklin Roosevelt, who thought he was marked by fate to make the peace, died before the end of the war.

Harry Truman, who was marked early in his career for oblivion and defeat, survived to organize the greatest coalition of nations in history.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was stricken twice in office and counted out, lived on to be the oldest President in the long story of the nation.

John F. Kennedy, the youngest elected President, who came to office proclaiming the emergence of a new

generation of leaders, is dead at 46.

And Lyndon Johnson, who at first opposed Kennedy and later joined and served him, has succeeded to the Presidency only after reaching the reluctant conclusion that he would never get it.

The Coming Changes

Accordingly, this is no time for anything but very modest speculation about the future. Time has been more cruel to President Johnson than it was to Harry Truman. He has come into the White House near the end of the statutory four-year term rather than at the beginning, and like Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the new British Prime Minister (who was also thrown up by a stroke of fate), he has less than a year to go before the election.

Policy under the new President, therefore, will probably remain very much as it was under Kennedy, but the execution of policy will undoubtedly be much different.

The Administration of John F. Kennedy was a very personal affair. It was organized to fit his personality and style. He had his own strong view on policy, foreign and domestic, and his own highly original concepts about his personal staff and his Cabinet.

He was a reader, an analyzer and a catalyst, and was to a very large extent his own Foreign Secretary, with gifts of grace, wit and knowledge that enabled him to fulfill the diplomatic and ceremonial aspects of his job.

President Johnson is a totally different type of man. He has not been a deep student of foreign affairs over a long period of time. Unlike Kennedy, he is not a great reader or analyzer of documents. He is a doer, who spends more time on how to get things done than on meditating on what to do.

The prospect is, therefore, that the White House staff of brilliant intellectuals and

Boston politicians will decline in power and the Cabinet will rise. Johnson drives his staff with all the energy of an impatient Army officer, which is quite different from what Kennedy's aides are accustomed to; but, ironically, Kennedy's Cabinet is likely to have more power under Johnson than it did under Kennedy.

Moreover, there is no urgent need for the new President to take new policy initiatives in the field of foreign affairs. His urgent problems are to get organized, to get something through the Congress, and to get ready for the election.

The Political Outlook

The death of President Kennedy has transformed the political scene. That is fairly obvious. It has improved the Republican party's chances of victory. It has hurt Senator Goldwater, who is identified in many minds with the extreme Right. It has certainly not increased the popularity of Texas in the North, and therefore, by indirection, it has complicated President Johnson's political problem.

Everybody in the Democ-

atic Party will rally behind the new President now. He will almost certainly be unchallenged for the Presidential nomination, and there is already considerable talk here that Senator Hubert Humphrey will be strongly backed for the Vice Presidential nomination, and may even replace Mike Mans-

fied as majority leader before then.

Beyond these speculations, however, it is probably imprudent to go. Each of the last three Presidents has developed in office in wholly unpredictable ways, and President Johnson is not likely to be an exception to this rule. — Washington, Nov 23.

NEHRU GRIEVED AND SHOCKED

It is a terrible thing that's happened. The consequences are bad enough and to a far reaching extent will gradually seep down. The very fact that he will not be there should have some effect. What this particular incident means is terribly difficult to say I should imagine his policy will be continued. Anyhow, I am deeply grieved and shocked both for personal relations and for international relations. — INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER NEHRU.