

*Scientists Have another
Premier, President, etc.*
Red Chief

'Cedes' Powers

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet officials were either unavailable or not talking Saturday about an Indian news report that Leonid I. Brezhnev has relinquished his duties as Communist party leader because of illness.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), quoting informed sources in Moscow, said the 68-year-old Brezhnev "has taken leave of his responsibilities" because of exhaustion, age, illness, and emotional stress caused by his mother's death last week.

The report did not say he had resigned. PTI said Brezhnev "evidently is resting and undergoing treatment not far from Moscow but is available to his colleagues for urgent counsel." The agency did not list any specific illness.

PTI, an independent agency owned by Indian newspapers as a cooperative, said that its sources "summarily dismiss talk of a power struggle as the cause or the likely consequence of Brezhnev's withdrawal."

In a related development, British Broadcasting Corp. and another Indian news agency, United News of India, reported in New Delhi that Mrs. Gandhi had postponed a planned visit to Moscow next month. An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said no date for the visit had ever been set "and so the question of postponement does not arise."

Reports on Brezhnev's health have circulated in the foreign press for weeks, and he has been variously reported suffering from



LEONID I. BREZHNEV

... reportedly ill

pneumonia, heart trouble, and leukemia.

During that time, Soviet spokesmen have refused to comment or even respond to inquiries on the subject.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, reported last week that Brezhnev attended the funeral of his 87-year-old mother and at that time described speculation about his health as "groundless inventions."

But the agency has not yet distributed promised photos of Brezhnev at the cemetery.

The Soviet press has continued to mention Brezhnev's name frequently. Saturday's edition of Pravda had it five times.

Speculation on Brezhnev's health began last month after he postponed a planned trip to Egypt. He failed also to meet Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam or Japanese Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during their recent visits to Moscow, although both leaders wanted to see him.

*Va. Pilot
1/19/75*

Brezhnev Heart Attack Reported

L.A. Times/Washington
Post News Service

WARSAW—Soviet Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev suffered a heart attack Dec. 19, his 68th birthday, reliable sources said here Tuesday.

The sources said Brezhnev, a heavy smoker, had suffered two previous heart attacks.

The sources said Brezhnev is resting and will officially resume his activities when British Prime Minister Harold Wilson visits Moscow next month. The sources said the heart attack had not affected Brezhnev's position in the ruling Soviet Politburo.

They added, however, that because of his health Brezhnev is thinking of stepping down next year after the Soviet Communist Party Congress. He would still keep his Politburo seat.

The sources named as his likeliest successor as party leader Fedor Kulakov, a member of the Politburo and central committee secretary in charge of agriculture.

1/22/75

*... SI WORK ON
PREMIERS, ETC.*

Foundering Bank Is Sold

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Security National Bank of Hempstead, N.Y., with \$1.8 billion in assets and facing failure, was sold today to the giant Chemical Bank of New York City, the nation's seventh largest bank.

All depositors of Security National will automatically become depositors of the Chemical Bank, which takes over "virtually all other liabilities," said James E. Smith, U.S. comptroller of currency.

Chemical said it paid \$40 million in cash to acquire Security National, the nation's 55th largest bank. Details of the purchase were to be announced by Chemical Bank today.

The purchase had to be approved by the Federal Reserve Board and the New York state superintendent of banks after Smith's finding that "external forces and public confidence have adversely affected the operations and condition of Security to the point that an emergency exists," the FRB said.

Bill Foster, a spokesman for the comptroller, said, "Security was faced with probable failure unless the takeover could be arranged. That finding (by Smith) was necessary in order to permit the Boards of Directors to enter into the transactions without prior approval of the shareholders."

The FRB said that Chemical Bank's action "will minimize the secondary effects of uncertainty

and doubt on banking and financial markets generally."

Chemical has assets of \$17.8 billion. As of Monday, all 98 offices of Security were to become branches of Chemical, which already has 181 offices in the New York area.

The surprise deal was worked out Saturday and Sunday by the Boards of Directors of the two banks, who were given approval by New York state superintendent of banks, the Federal Reserve Board, and the U.S. comptroller, whose office oversees all national banks.

Smith said the purchase was a "very constructive result for the Security National Bank shareholders and depositors for the Chemical Bank and for the public interest in a stable and healthy banking system."

It was third major banking failure in recent months. The Franklin National Bank of New York, the nation's 20th largest, was declared insolvent by the federal government last October after it lost nearly \$40 million in foreign currency dealings. The bank was taken over by a consortium of six large European banks.

The worst previous bank failure came in late 1973 when the U.S. National Bank of San Diego went into receivership.

my predict banks will fail's beginning everywhere soon, Owens

*Get your money out of banks.
liquidate your stocks.
Owens
1/24/75*

If the rich are like us,

By Charles Foley
The Observer, London

Hunts prove we're in trouble

DALLAS—People at the Texas State Fair a few years back were startled to find, at a modest booth displaying his products, the lofty figure of Haroldson Lafayette Hunt, smiling benignly at the world of which he owned so large a slice and doling out 3 pound plastic bags of goodies.

"Takers found inside copies of Hunt's book 'Alpaca,' which explains why the rich should inherit the Earth; a packet of his 'Life Line Freedom Talks,' which told how the Communists will probably do so instead; and a free sample of Gastro-matic, an H. L. Hunt product guaranteed to dispel painful gas, of which the oil billionaire was a victim.

In blue bow-tie, with tufts of white hair at his ears, Hunt looked like the kindly judge in an Andy Hardy movie. "I'm here to save the Republic," he affirmed, in reedy tones. "The Kremlin plans to take us over in three years. Read my books and you'll see!"

Now Hunt is dead, at 85, and the horrendous tangle of lawsuits, charges and countercharges, dirty linen and uncloseted skeletons he has left to his heirs indicate that, if the Hunts are typical American zillionaires, the rich are in grave trouble.

The lid has come off a bizarre family feud for the old man's money. It involves wiretapping, purloined papers, charges of bribery, plea-bargaining in high places and an exotic dash of international high politics that pits Al Fatah's guerrillas against the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A hush-hush yearlong investigation into the affair by the Justice Department is about to end with a string of indictments. Caught in the web of the inquiry are a ranking senator from Texas; its former governor, John B. Connally; a brace of Richard M. Nixon's attorneys-general and, of course, the former President himself, without whom no scandal these days is complete.

Among the Big Rich of Big D — as Dallas residents like to call their city—it was long believed that the Hunt problems began some two decades ago when HLH's first wife, Lyda Bunker, was dying of cancer. Hunt grew dependent on his personal secretary, Ruth Ray Wright, who was 30 years his junior. The first Mrs. Hunt had been dead two years when, in 1957, HLH married the girl. This move confronted the six children of his first bed—Lamar, Nelson Bunker, W. Herbert, H. L. Jr., Margaret and Carolyn—with a stepmother in their own age bracket and four healthy young rivals in the next-of-kin stakes: her children, Ray Lee, June, Helen and Swanee.

The four were at first attributed to "a former marriage," but some time after Hunt formally adopted them, the second Mrs. Hunt revealed—apparently to strengthen their claims on the inheritance—that her husband was, indeed, their father. Ruth, an enthusiastic member of the local Baptist choir, set her mind to converting HLH—no more gambling or cigars—and eventually led the old man, along with his new family, to Dallas' First Baptist Church, the largest in the world, where under theegis of Billy Graham all six were baptized by immersion together.

Jan. 24, 1975
Scientists
I've been genuinely framed
twice in my life... once in
Fort Worth, Texas... once in
Dallas, Texas.
Hunt... was my enemy.
This is the Si way... of
handling things.
XPK 7 mens
Man X

course, Ray Lee left college to go into real estate, a helpline; June went on tour as a gospel singer and Helen wane married. Their husbands were taken into the business. Both branches of the family presented the patriarch with grandchildren and great-grandchildren until the total of punitive beneficiaries rose to 40.

Hunt, a onetime farm boy, lumberjack and cowhand, struck it rich in the 1920s. Old hands swear that he got his start by staking \$50,000 in poker winnings on a property that turned out to cover a lake of oil 45 miles by 9 miles. When the money rolled in, he would risk thousands on a horse or the turn of a card. The money still rolls in today on an ever-mounting tide, in line with the high profits throughout the oil industry. Immense reserves await tapping, when prices soar still further. All this is in addition to real estate holdings, timber, a canning plant, drug companies, ranchland and cattle.

Hunt refused to bid for anything he could not own outright. He must have absolute control: no pesky shareholders, directors, balance sheets for public disclosure. Hunt Oil was a private company, and so were its affairs. "Rich men are ill-advised to call attention to their wealth in any way," he snapped, when asked why there were no Hunt foundations for health, education, the arts.

HLH did spend some millions on the fervidly anti-Communist 'Life Line' broadcasts he sponsored on 541 radio stations, but because they enjoyed tax-exempt status, this favorite hobby horse was exercised entirely at Uncle Sam's expense.

Four years ago, Hunt's grip on his affairs began to slacken. He was confined first to a wheel chair, tended always by Ruth, then to a hospital bed. The old guard at Hunt Oil began getting orders from plump Vice President Nelson Bunker, the heir-apparent, and his closely allied brother, Herbert.

One executive who resented the change was Paul M. Rothermel Jr., for 15 years HLH's confidant, bodyguard and whipping boy. Rothermel, a former FBI man and an attorney, had known and admired the second Mrs. Hunt throughout that time.

He also knew that Hunt, while putting enough in trust funds to make his first six children multimillionaires in their own right, had given scant thought to Ruth's family. "Mr. Hunt relied on my judgment," he said. "He even gave me a letter



NELSON
BUNKER HUNT

LAMAR
HUNT

W. HERBERT
HUNT

The Hunts recovered the legal initiative with a suit against Rothermel — who had by now left their father's employ — and two executives associated with him. It was alleged that they siphoned off scores of millions of dollars into dummy companies, and it was simply to trace these funds that the detectives had been hired.

The two executives protested in court that groundless embezzlement charges had been brought "simply to discredit and coerce us as pawns in the struggle for the Hunt fortune." They also raised some eyebrows by contending that, on behalf of the Hunts, they had undertaken numerous clandestine deals involving "holders and seekers of office, labor leaders, professional sports figures."

Then Kelly sued Bunker and company for \$100 million complaining they had ruined his reputation and career, even threatened him with force. Not to be left out, the Rothermels stepped in with a \$1.5-million suit against the Hunts. Mrs. Rothermel, a psychiatrist's aide, complained of eavesdropping on her patients. Rothermel, who had access to the old man's files for years, is busy on a book about it all—he'd like the world to know more about "the man who played God."

Rothermel said HLH allowed his sons to bring their suits "to keep peace in the family" — a somewhat forlorn hope. Now that his influence has gone, Bunker's instincts will take over. A weighty, more aggressive chip off the old block, Nelson Bunker Hunt, 48, is the family's business brain. His gambling streak has lately been channeled into the commodities market in silver and sugar, as well as into racehorse owning and breeding on an international scale.

The Hunt lawyers allege that originally Nixon and his men promised Bunker immunity in exchange for certain (unspecified) favors. "Our clients performed," they say, "but indictments were handed down anyway." The deal, according to Hunt Oil sources, was a perfectly proper tradeoff. Wiretap charges would be dropped if the Hunts give the FBI a list of Al Fatah agents in the United States.

At that time, in 1972, the Nixonites had evidence that Al Fatah was seeking a foothold in America. They even feared an attempt on Mrs. Golda Meir, who was soon to visit New York. The FBI had burgled the offices of the Arab Information Center in Dallas, where the Hunts had contacts — with what success is not known. Next the FBI turned to the Hunts, who were in a position to know Al Fatah personnel in the U.S. Bunker had high-level friends in the Arab world, who were trying to help him dissuade Libya's Col. Muammar Kadafi from taking over the Hunt oil wells in the Libyan desert.

Libya was Bunker's fief. He had negotiated in person the deals that had given Hunt International its vast holdings there, and he had celebrated the inauguration of the empire with a ball for 500 (tax deductible) guests in London with three name bands flown there from the United States.

Because of the dispute with Kadafi, which had promised to dead America, in the shape of Bunker Hunt, "a slap in its cold, arrogant face," there had been threats from Al Fatah, which the Libyan revolutionary subsidized. Bunker was a target for

approving transactions I might make on his behalf. So I felt a duty to persuade him in 1969 to change his will to benefit the second family. But when the first lot heard of this, some odd things happened."

Rothermel's wife, Joyce, wondered about two men in a red Thunderbird always outside her home. The driver, questioned by police, turned out to be a private eye, one J.J. Kelly. "When I asked if he was on a divorce case" a policeman said later, "he stepped on the gas and took off. If he hadn't panicked, none of this would have come out."

In the car were \$40,000 worth of tapping equipment and some 100 tapes of bugged conversations. But J. J. Kelly stayed defiantly mute, even when the FBI discovered wiretaps on Rothermel and the homes of three other Hunt Oil executives. Kelly and his lieutenant, Patrick McCann, were confident that "dollar power" would see them through. Instead, they received three years apiece. Furious, they turned state's evidence, and proudly disdaining hush money, according to their story — at last named their paymasters.

Bunker and Herbert were brought to court, Texas style, in steel bracelets and chains, to be indicted on wiretapping charges. Kelly confessed that he'd been beguiled by "men of vast fortunes who merely wanted to escalate their wealth and power."

assassination or kidnaping, and he had made his own investigations into the terrorist group's U.S. complement.

At a Texas barbecue in autumn, 1972, Bunker met Nixon personally on the estate of their friend, John Connally, who was then destined for high office and might help bring Kadafi to heel. Bunker complained about Kissinger's inertia over Libya (if they would not send in the Marines, at least they could blockade Tobruk), and asked that the wiretap charges against him be dropped. Through clouds of smoke from barbecuing steer, Hunt Sr. could be heard blasting the administration for "trailing our flag in the dust."

Soon after this encounter, Bunker met the Justice Department's new boss, Richard G. Kleindienst, and, it is alleged, discussed the tradeoff with him over lunch at the ranch of their old friend, James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), head of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee. If the Nixonites got their Al Fatah list — and many here believe it was instrumental in helping the FBI foil a bomb plot against Mrs. Meir in March, 1973, when three cars stuffed with explosives were discovered before they could be set off — why did they default on the deal?

The answer is Watergate: Nixon flinched from involvement in another scandal and cover-up. As for that Libyan oil, it had been expropriated by Kadafi anyway in May, 1973, and the White House had no intention of looking for more trouble.

With the fall of Kleindienst over Watergate in April, 1973, the Justice Department under its new broom started a clean-up. An inquiry into the Hunt affair and the alleged tradeoff began. A grand jury, having secretly heard out the actors in this Texan melodrama, is preparing up to a score of indictments against politicians and others both here and in Washington, DC.

For Bunker, it has been one disaster after another. He has lost Arab friends by trying to win immunity via the Al Fatah list. He has lost oil holdings he estimates are worth \$25 billion. He could yet go to jail on those wiretapping charges. And, as Paul Rothermel predicted, the H.L.H.'s will leave the bulk of his estate to his second wife and family, including his home and all his shares in Hunt Oil.

Bunker might contest the will, but then there is the clause that H. L. Hunt, wily to the last, inserted in that document as his own Catch 22: Anyone who attempts to challenge it "loses and forfeits all right and title" to what he has been given.

It's Gastro-Magic time up on Turtle Creek.

Jan. 24, 1975 - Scientists - Just spent 1 hour
weeks at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.
checked out 100% healthy. They checked
everything. * (then had bilateral hernia repair
by Dr. Edis & staff.) Am
home now.
Ted - 4 weeks

* Dr. Carey,
medical
work-up.