



Erlendar blaðaúrklippur, vegna fráfalls
Bjarna, Sigríðar og Benedikts,
10. júlí 1970, fyrri hluti

Bjarni Benediktsson – Sigríður Björnsdóttir – Benedikt Vilmondarson – Fjölskyldan – Erlendar
blaðaúrklippur

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360
Fjölskyldan
Askja 3-12, Örk 2

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FALL RIVER, MASS.

HERALD-NEWS

JUL 11 1970

E - 41,477

Iceland Mourns Leader's Death

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Icelanders today mourned the death of Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, killed in a fire, while Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry, temporarily took the reins of government in the Arctic Circle nation.

Flags were at half staff and police and fire fighters sifted the ruins of the summer cottage in which Benediktsson, 62, his wife and a grandson burned to death Thursday night.

President Kristjan Eldjarn, after meeting with members of the Cabinet Friday, asked Hafstein to take over as acting prime minister of the coalition government of Benediktsson's

Independent party and the Social Democrats.

Witnesses who saw the flames shooting from the summer house of the prime minister in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, said the blaze was punctuated by an explosion that tore off the roof. The cause of the fire was not known.

After the blaze was controlled, fire fighters found the charred remains of Benediktsson, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and remained in that post until 1940.

He entered politics with his election as mayor of Reykjavik in 1940, serving until 1947, when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. He was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first Parliament, which dated back to 930 A.D. in the days of the Vikings who settled on Iceland. The house was built in 1939 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

AUGUSTA, GA.
CHRONICLE

M - 49,056
S - 64,466

JUL 11 1970

Iceland prime minister dies in mysterious fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from

Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

EVANSVILLE, IND.

COURIER

M - 65,904

COURIER & PRESS

S - 109,651

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Leader Dies In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (P) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. The house was built in 1930 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

OCALA, FLA.

STAR-BANNER

JUL 10 1970

E - 14,065

S - 14,852

Iceland's Premier Dies In House Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)

Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

CLEARWATER, FLA.

SUN

JUL 10 1970

E - 31,995

S - 33,213

Iceland's Premier, Wife Killed In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62.

E - 30,857

JUL 11 1970

Icelanders Mourn Prime Minister Killed in Blaze

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Icelanders today mourned the death of Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, killed in a fire, while Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry, temporarily took the reins of government in the Arctic Circle nation.

Flags were at half staff and police and firemen sifted the ruins of the summer cottage in which Benediktsson, 62, his wife and a grandson burned to death Thursday night.

President Kristjan Eldjarn, after meeting with members of the cabinet Friday, asked Hafstein to take over as acting prime minister of the coalition government of Benediktsson's Independent party and the Social Democrats.

Witnesses who saw the flames shooting from the summer house of the prime minister in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, said the blaze was punctuated by an explosion that tore off the roof. The cause of the fire was not known.

WORTHINGTON, MINN.
GLOBE

E - 16,005

JUL 10 1970

Premier is dead in fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

LAKELAND, FLA.

LEDGER

JUL 11 1970

E - 25,716

S - 26,611

Prime Minister Dies In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

M - 32,923

S - 38,259

JUL 11 1970

Police Seek Clues In Death Of Iceland Prime Minister

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chiefs who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

Benediktsson was the editor of the Reykjavie newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. the house was built in 1934 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
POST

E - 82,722

S - 85,633

JUL 1 0 1970

Perish in Blaze



AP Wirephoto

Bjarni Benediktsson, premier of Iceland, and his wife, along with their grandson, died in a fire that swept their summer home last night. The wooden cottage was located at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik.

Iceland's Premier Killed With Wife and Kin in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — (AP) Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

Priest Discovers Fire

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his

health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

E - 45,455

S - 50,812

JUL 10 1970

Premier of Iceland, Wife and Grandson Are Killed in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingeviller, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November, 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his

health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

Four-year-old Benedikt Vilmundarson was the son of the prime minister's daughter Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways.

Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the minister of culture, Dr. Gylfi Gislason.

At the time of the tragedy, the boy's mother was on a flight to New York on an Icelandic Airways passenger liner.

E & S - 7,425

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier Fire Victim

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridue Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

ROSWELL, N.M.
RECORD

E - 9,935
S - 10,446

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Is Killed in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62.

WINTER HAVEN, FLA.
NEWS-CHIEF

E - 8,461

S - 9,404

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Killed In Fire

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The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

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ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.
RECORD

E - 6,630

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier, Wife And Grandson Killed In Blaze

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier BByarne Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

M - 3,042

S - 4,078

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier, Wife Die in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)

— Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridue Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.



BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON
Iceland Premier



AP Wirephotos

PREMIER'S WIFE
Dies With Husband

LOS ANGELES, CAL.
HERALD-EXAMINER

E - 540,793

S - 529,466

JUL 11 1970

Police Probe

Iceland

Leader's Death

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier, Wife, Grandson Die In Blaze

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

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Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigrídue Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4. Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

M - 161,892

S - 185,885

JUL 11 1970



Only Rubble Remains After Fatal Fire

... that hit home of Iceland's prime minister

Iceland's Premier, Family Die When Fire Burns Home

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Prime Minister Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and their 4-year-old grandson were killed in a fire early yesterday that destroyed their summer house and plunged this nation into a deep mourning.

The bodies of Benediktsson, 62, and his wife Sigridur, 60, and the couple's grandson, Benedikt Gylfason, were found in the ashes of the four-room wooden house at Thingvellir 31 miles from Reykjavik.

The little boy was the son of Benediktsson's daughter Valgerdur.

cident, the cabinet met in emergency session and named Johann Hafstein, the minister of justice and industries, as acting prime minister to guide this NATO ally of the United States pending new elections.

The house was razed before the fire brigade from Reykjavik arrived. Neighbors said they had believed the house was empty.

Government officials said that only after they found the Prime Minister's Reykjavik home vacant did they realize Benediktsson and his family had been killed in the fire.

The government said the cause of the fire was still unclear. But officials said a

paraffin heater could have touched off the blaze.

PRESIDENT KRISTJAN Eldjarn announced the appointment of Hafstein, 54, "to assume the duties of prime minister temporarily in addition to his duties as minister of justice and industries."

Political observers said it was unclear how long Hafstein would lead the coalition government of Benediktsson's Conservative Independence Party and the Social Democrats. He could stay on until the elections to the Althing, (parliament) which have to be called before next June.

Flags flew at half staff over the island and Radio Iceland played solemn music.

A FEW HOURS after the in-

SHFLBY, N.C.
STAR JUL 10 1970

E - 14,211



DIE IN FIRE — Bjarni Benediktsson, Iceland's Prime Minister, his wife and grandson, died in a fire last night. (AP Wirephoto)

Premier Of Iceland, Wife Killed In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Bene-

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health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigríður Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

PRESSE-CLEARING

1, Rue Mirabeau

PARIS 16°

Ci-joint

coupures

Herewith

415

cuttings

Anbei

Ausschnitte

29 JUL 1970

M - 79,088

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Chief And His Wife Dead In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. the house was built in 1930 to mark the 1,000 anniversary of the legislature.

HAVERHILL, MASS.
GAZETTE

E - 22,572

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier, Wife, Grandson Killed In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI)—
—Premier Bjarne Benedik-
tsson, 62, his wife and their 2-
year-old grandson were killed
Thursday night in a fire that
destroyed the premier's sum-
mer home.

JUL 11 1970

Prime Minister Of Iceland Dies In Blast

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

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IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO
POST REGISTER

JUL 10 1970
E - 16,150
S - 21,824

Iceland Premier, Wife Die In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

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ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TELEGRAM

JUL 10 1970

E - 15,917

S - 16,271

Iceland Premier And Wife Killed By Fire In Home

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

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The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

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Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over
See PREMIER Page 2-A

HICKORY, N.C.

RECORD

JUL 10 1970

E - 26,096

Premier Dies In Iceland Cottage Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

HOBBS, N.M.

NEWS-SUN

JUL 10 1970

E - 8,237

S - 9,079

Iceland's Premier

Dies in Home Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

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Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridue Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

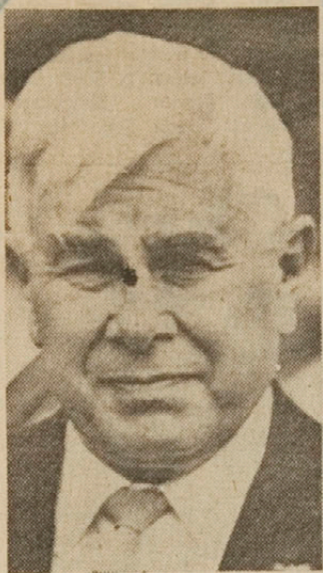
Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

GREENSBORO, N.C.

RECORD

JUL 10 1970

E - 33,470



AP Wirephoto

Killed In Fire

Bjarni Benediktsson, prime minister of Iceland, along with his wife and a grandson, died in a fire last night that swept their summer home at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik.

M - 16,859
JUL 11 1970

Head of State Of Iceland Killed in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

PREMIER

as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridue Benediktosson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

Enkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

CASPER, WYO.
STAR-TRIBUNE

E - 21,908

S - 22,495

JUL 17 1970

McGee Is In Iceland

WASHINGTON — Sen. Gale McGee (D-Wyo.) was in Iceland Thursday.

He was representing the President at the funeral of Premier Bjarni Benediktsson, who died with his wife and grandson in a fire last Friday.

McGee was chosen by President Nixon to be one of the U.S. representatives at the funeral. He was expected back in Washington Thursday night to resume conference committee sessions on the differences between the Senate and House versions of the postal reorganization bill.

"Premier Benediktsson was a leader in his island nation's independence movement," said McGee of the late premier, a signer of the Atlantic Charter.

"As foreign minister, he was instrumental in allying his small country with the other free nations in the North Atlantic

Treaty Organization. He had been a friend of the United States through his long career in public service.

"I consider it a great honor to go to Reykjavik to pay respect to his memory and to convey the President's and this nation's feelings to the people of Iceland, for they have lost an impressive leader," McGee said.

CLINTON, IOWA
HERALD

E - 23,275

JUL 1 0 1970

Iceland's Premier Perishes in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor

of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

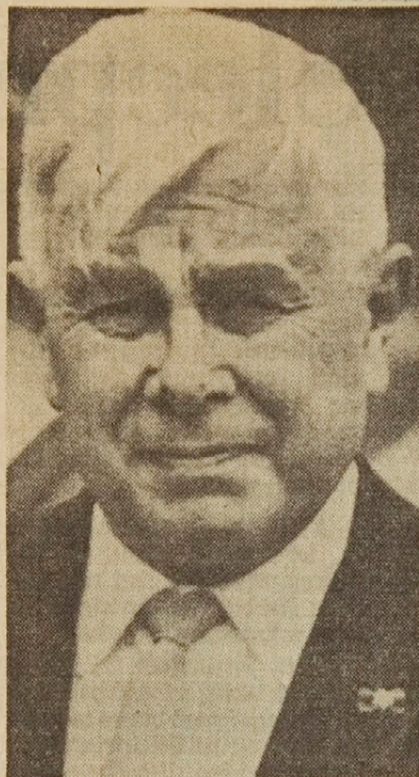
Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridue Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

D - 59,126
S - 76,019

JUL 10 1970



Bjarni Benediktsson, prime minister of Iceland, and his wife, along with their grandson, died in a fire that swept their

summer home Thursday night. The wooden cottage was located at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik.

Fire Kills Iceland Premier

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health, Benediktsson had been minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigríður Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

M - 92,628

S - 99,385

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Police Seek Cause Of Fire That Claimed Chief

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundur Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity

he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A. D. The house was built in 1934 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

ANDERSON, S.C.
INDEPENDENT

M - 52,097

S - 51,872

JUL 12 1970

Iceland's Prime Minister, Wife, Grandson Die In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

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The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Air-

ways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilundur Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavikian newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. The house was built in 1934 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

PATERSON, N.J.

NEWS

JUL 10 1970

E - 49,251

Around the World

Iceland Premier, Wife, Grandchild Die in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Premier Bjarne Bnediktson, his wife and one of their grandchildren were killed Thursday night in a fire that destroyed the prime minister's official summer residence.

An official government spokesman, announcing the deaths, said the cause of the blaze at the Thingvellir residence 31 miles outside the capital, had not been disclosed.

Radio Iceland said the granddaughter who perished in the fire was 4 or 5.

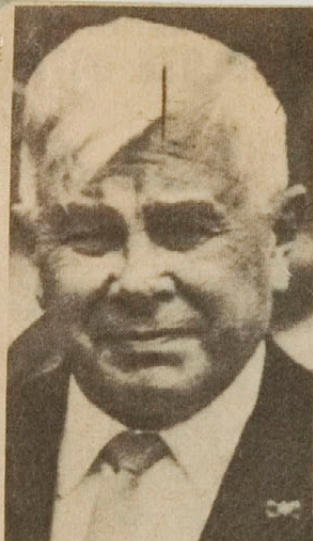
GOLDSBORO, N.C.

NEWS-ARGUS

JUL 10 1970

E - 16,034

S - 16,322



MR. AND MRS. BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON

Iceland Premier, Wife, Grandson Die

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.
OBSERVER

E - 38,082

S - 37,844

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier Is Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Grandson Also Killed

Icelandic Premier, Wife Die in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI)—Iceland's prime minister, Dr. Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and their 4-year-old grandson died when a fire razed the government's summer house early today, the government said.

Firemen found the bodies of the 62-year-old prime minister, his 60-year-old wife and their grandson in the rubble. The bodies were taken to a chapel in Reykjavik.

The government met in emergency session a few hours after the official announcement of the prime minister's death to pick an acting successor.

Benediktsson's death was not expected to change Icelandic politics although he was an influential prime minister in this tiny island nation of 200,000 inhabitants.

The grandson was Benedikt Gylfason, the son of the prime minister's daughter, Valgerdur Bjarnadottir, and her husband, Vilundur Gylfason. The



BENEDIKTSSON and WIFE

parents were in Reykjavik at the time.

The fire was discovered by a group of Dutch students on their way to the nearby Valhal Hotel. They saw flames through the windows and ran up to the house and knocked on doors and windows. But they said they saw nobody in the burning house.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known but government officials said it could have started in a kerosene heater.

E - 15,243

JUL 10 1970

Wife, Grandson Also Killed

Premier Perishes In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night. A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

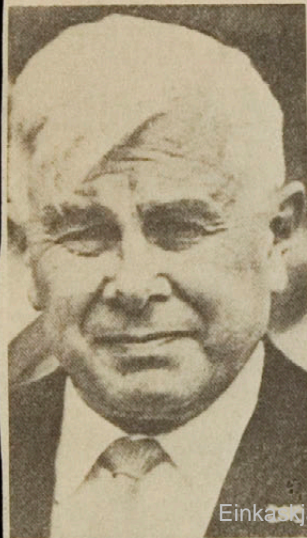
The cottage was owned by the government.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hassteinn, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigríður Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.



BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON



MRS. BENEDIKTSSON

Einkaútgáfafrá Bjarna Benediktssonar ©

Iceland's Premier Perishes in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house,

they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

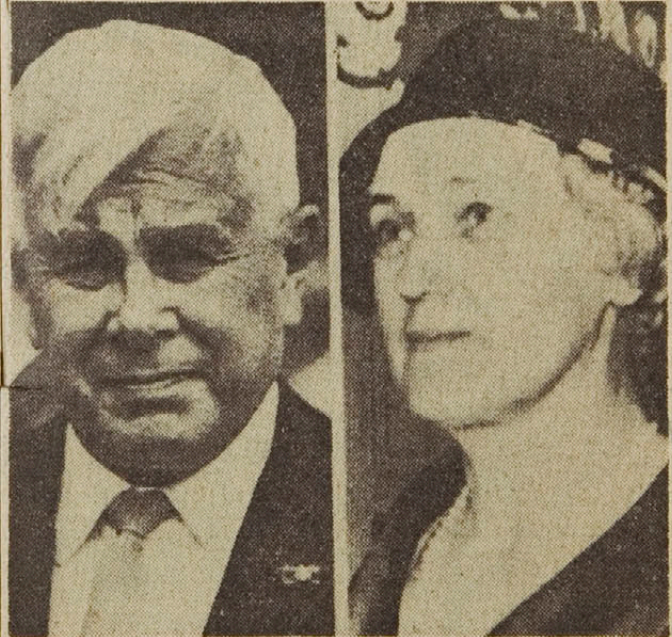
A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November, 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.



— AP Wirephoto

DIE IN FIRE—Bjarni Benediktsson, prime minister of Iceland, and his wife, along with their grandson, died in a fire that swept their summer home Thursday night.

GREEN BAY, WISC.
PRESS-GAZETTE

E - 47,880

S - 59,238

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Chief, Wife, Boy Killed in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm. When firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

APPLETON, WISC.
POST-CRESCENT

E - 43,430

S - 48,310

JUL 10 1970

Icelandic Premier Dies In House Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at



Benediktsson

the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the fire was an inferno and they could do nothing.

Front
Page

Edit
Page

Other
Page

WOODBIDGE, N.J.
NEWS TRIBUNE

E - 51,810

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Killed in Blaze

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a Grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

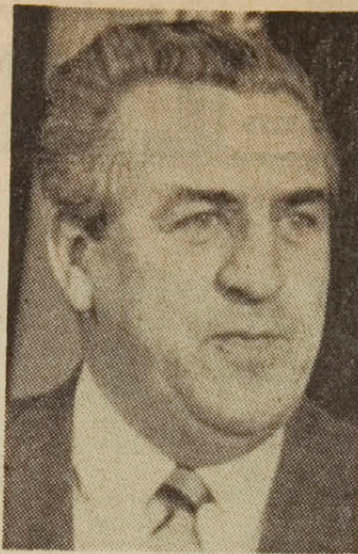
A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
PRESS

JUL 11 1970

E - 133,419

S - 138,539



JOHANN HAFSTEIN

Hafstein Takes Reins; Iceland Mourns Death

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Icelanders Saturday mourned the death of Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, killed in a fire, while Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry, temporarily took the reins of government in this nation just south of the Arctic Circle.

Flags were at half staff and police and firemen sifted the ruins of the summer cottage in which Benediktsson, 62, his wife and a grandson burned to death Thursday night.

President Kristjan Eldjarn, after meeting with members of the cabinet Friday, asked Hafstein to take over as acting prime minister of the coalition government of Bendiktsson's Independent Party and the Social Democrats.

Witnesses who saw the flames shooting from the summer house of the prime minister in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, said the blaze was punctuated by an explosion that tore off the roof. The cause of the fire was not known.

After the blaze was controlled, firemen found the charred remains of Benediktsson, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of the prime minister's daughter, Vala, a hostess on Icelandic Airways. She was aboard a flight to New York when the tragedy occurred.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament, which dated back to 930 A.D. in the days of the Vikings who settled on Iceland. The house was built in 1930 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

WATERBURY, CONN.
REPUBLICAN

JUL 11 1970
M - 26,343
S - 55,167

Rescue Tries Futile; Iceland Premier Dies

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP).
— Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

© Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

Front
Page

Edit
Page

Other
Page

2

DUBUQUE, IOWA
TELEGRAPH-HERALD

E-40,908

S-41,897

JUL 10 1970



ICELAND LEADER DIES—Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, and his wife were killed Thursday night when a fire swept their summer home at Tingrellir. Premier since 1963, Benediktsson was 62.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.
HOME NEWS

JUL 10 1970

E - 50,927

S - 52,421

Fire Kills Iceland's Premier

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He sounded the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Mrs. Benediktsson was 50 and their grandson was 4.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the fire.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, gave the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.
NEWS

E - 28,659

JUL 10 1970

Wife Also Victim

Iceland's Premier Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.



BENEDIKTSSON

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

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ALLENTOWN, PA.

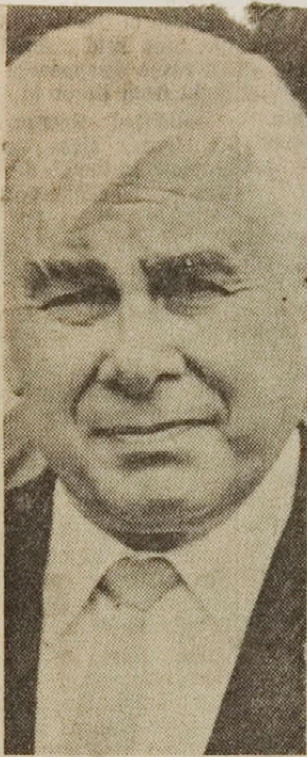
CHRONICLE

E - 24,010

CALL-CHRONICLE

S - 122,514

JUL 1 0 1970



BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON

Fire Kills Iceland's Premier

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) —Iceland's prime minister, Dr. Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and their four-year-old grandson died when a fire razed the government's summer house early today, the government said.

The small wooden house at Thingvellir, 31 miles outside Reykjavik burned down before the fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik.

Firemen found the bodies of the 62-year-old prime minister, his 60-year-old wife and their grandson in the rubble. The bodies were taken to a chapel in Reykjavik.

Picking Successor

The government met in emergency session a few hours after the official announcement of the prime minister's death to pick an acting successor.

Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry in Ben-

Continued on Page 2, Column 2

Iceland Premier, Kin Die in House Blaze

(Continued From Page One)

ediktsson's coalition of his own Conservative Independence party and the Social Democrats, was expected to get the job, government sources said.

Hafstein has been Benediktsson's deputy in the government and the Independence Party for some time.

No Policy Change Seen

Benediktsson's death was not expected to change Icelandic politics although he was an influential prime minister in this tiny island nation of 200,000 inhabitants.

Elections to the Althing (parliament) will have to be called before June next year. Hafstein was expected to head the cabinet until the elections.

Benediktsson's death came as

a shock to Icelanders, who heard the news on the morning news broadcast from Radio Iceland.

Flags were flown at halfstaff. Radio Iceland played only classical music.

The grandson was Benedikt Gylfason, the son of the prime minister's daughter, Valgerdur Bjarnadottir, and her husband, Vilmunder Gylfason. The parents were in Reykjavik at the time.

Neighbors did not know the prime minister and his family had arrived Thursday night. Not until officials telephoned the prime minister's house in Reykjavik after the fire did they find out the Benediktsson's were in the house.

Firemen Find Bodies

Firemen later found the bodies.

The fire was discovered by a group of Dutch students on their way to the nearby Valhal Hotel. They saw flames through the windows and ran up to the house and knocked on doors and windows. But they said they saw nobody in the burning house.

"Then there was a small explosion inside and we ran up to the hotel and sounded the alarm," Uta Heichenberg of Leiden, Holland, told a UPI reporter at the scene.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known but government officials said it could have started in a kerosene heater used in the small four-room house.

JUL 10 1970
E - 110,623
S - 149,381



BAJARNE BENEDIKTSSON AND WIFE
Fire Kills Iceland Prime Minister

Iceland's Premier, Wife Die in Fire at Summer House

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Iceland's prime minister, Dr. Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and their four-year-old grandson died when a fire razed the government's summer house early today, the government said.

The small wooden house at Thingvellir, 31 miles outside Reykjavik burned down before the fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik.

Firemen found the bodies of the 62-year-old prime minister, his 60-year-old wife and their grandson in the rubble. The bodies were taken to a chapel in Reykjavik.

The government met in emergency session a few hours after the official announcement of the prime minister's death to pick an acting successor.

minister of justice and industry in Benediktsson's coalition of his own conservative Independence Party and the Social Democrats, was expected to get the job, government sources said.

Hafstein has been Benediktsson's deputy in the government and the Independence Party for some time.

Benediktsson's death was not expected to change Icelandic politics, although he was an influential prime minister in this tiny island nation of 200,000 inhabitants.

Elections to the Althing (parliament) will have to be called before June next year. Hafstein was expected to head the cabinet until the elections.

Johann Hafstein,

Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar og Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

LANCASTER, PA.
NEW ERA
E - 56,523
NEWS
S - 110,874

JUL 10 1970

WOODEN COTTAGE BURNS

Premier of Iceland, Wife, Grandson Killed in Fire at Summer Home

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's Summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

GOVERNMENT OWNED

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4. Police sifted through the

ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

SAW BLAZE

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

Running to investigate, they found the government residence blazing fiercely. A few minutes later a violent explosion from within the house lifted off the roof, they said.

By the time the fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, there was virtually nothing left of the wood and iron construction.

FROM RUINS

Police said the bodies recovered from the ruins this morning, were burned almost beyond recognition.

Four-year-old Benedikt Vilmondarson was the son of the prime minister's daughter Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways.

Her husband, Vilmondar Gislason, is the son of the minister of culture, Dr. Gylfi Gislason.

At the time of the tragedy, the boy's mother was on a flight to New York on an Icelandic Airways passenger liner.

Although no official state of mourning was declared immediately, all flags in Reykjavik were flying at halfstaff, the state-owned radio was broadcasting only solemn music, and people throughout the country were openly displaying grief.

STRONG LEADER

Dr. Benediktsson was a powerful leader and a strong influence on the politics of this far north island state.

He was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. Returning to Iceland he became a professor at the university in 1932, staying on until 1940. That year, at 32, he became the youngest mayor of Reykjavik, and held the post until 1947.

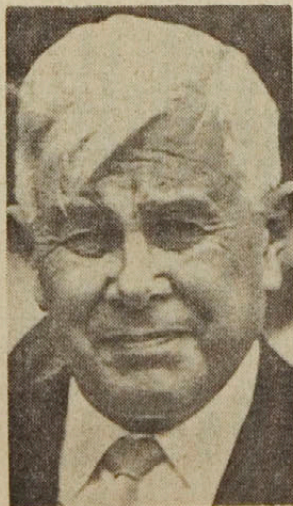
He entered national politics and in 1947 became minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that position he was one of the signatories of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949. He also was editor-in-chief of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid, and at the same time held various ministerial posts until he became primer minister in 1963.

4 CHILDREN

The Benediktssons are survived by four children, three daughters and a son, who is now studying law in Reykjavik.

The Summer residence at Tingvellir, on the site of the world's first Parliament, dating back to 930 A.D. was built to mark the thousandth anniversary in 1930.

Originally intended to house the visiting Danish king and queen that year, it later became a retreat for prime ministers and other cabinet members.



PREMIER BENEDIKTSSON



SIGRIDUR BENEDIKTSSON

Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgun and other cabinet members

GREENSBORO, N.C.
NEWS

M - 83,477

S - 101,081

JUL 11 1970

Fire Hits Home

Prime Minister Of Iceland Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

FIRE BRIGADE

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. The house was built in 1930 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

Front
Page

Edit
Page

Other
Page

ROCK SPRINGS, WYO.
ROCKET-MINER

M-4,897

JUL 16 1970

McGee Goes To Iceland

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo., left Washington Wednesday night for the capital of Iceland where he will represent the United States at the funeral of former Iceland Premier Bjarni Benediktsson.

The premier died Friday in a fire that also killed his wife and their four-year-old grandson.

McGee said he considered it an honor to go to Iceland to pay respect to Benediktsson's memory and convey the President's and the nation's sorrow on the loss of an impressive leader.

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.
PRESS

E - 79,881

S - 83,105
JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier, Wife Die in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home last night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been

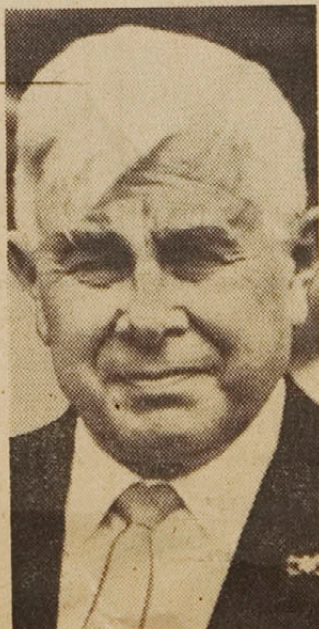
minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktosson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.



Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgaskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

—Associated Press WIREPHOTO.

BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.
GAZETTE

JUL 11 1970
M - 55,934

Iceland Chief of State And Kin Die in Blast

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

* * *

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

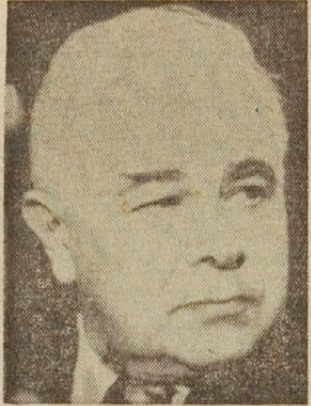
A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

* * *

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundur Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of



BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON
Slain Prime Minister

Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940. That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

* * *

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. The house was built in 1930 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.
JOURNAL JUL 10 1970

E - 35,739
S - 41,003

Premier Of Iceland And Wife Die In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night. time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the

Front
Page

Edit
Page

Other
Page

NEWBURGH, N.Y.
NEWS

E - 32,006

JUL 10 1970

Premier, 2 Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

BFTHLFHFHFM, PA.
GLOBE-TIMES

E - 30,719

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Dies In Home Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Premier Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and one of their grandchildren were killed last night in a fire that destroyed the Prime Minister's official summer residence. the fire was 4 or 5.

An official government spokesman, announcing the deaths, said the cause of the blaze at the Thingvellir Residence 31 miles outside the capital, had not been disclosed.

Radio Iceland said the granddaughter who perished in

Benediktsson, 62, was appointed Prime Minister in 1963 and was leading a coalition government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democratic Party.

The Premier began his career as a lawyer and later served as professor of law at the University of Reykjavik. He entered government service in 1947 as foreign and justice minister and remained in that post until 1953.

He then held the post of combined minister of justice and education until 1956 when he left the government and became editor of Iceland's most influential newspaper, Morgunbladid.

Benediktsson re-entered the government in 1959 as minister of justice and industry, working primarily with fishery problems.

He took over as Prime Minister Nov. 14, 1963, from Olavur Thors.

Benediktsson was married to the former Sigrid Tormodsdotir, 60. They were married in 1943 and had three daughters and one son.

15
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
SUN-GAZETTE

E - 31,182

JUL 10 1970

Premier Is Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tinguellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

ELMIRA, N.Y.

STAR-GAZETTE

D - 51,075

TELEGRAM

S - 55,644

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Dies in Blaze

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghinavelle, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.



The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November, 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hesstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.



Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50, their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

SUPERIOR, WISC.
TELEGRAM

E - 16,185

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier Dies in Fire



Wife, Grandson Also Victims

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62.

10

LANSDALE, PA.
NORTH PENN REPORTER

E - 14,323

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier, Wife and Grandson Lose Lives in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.
TIMES-LEADER

E - 53,565

JUL 10 1970

Iceland's Premier Perishes In Fire

Reykjavik, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence Party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigridur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

Running to investigate, they



BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON

found the government residence blazing fiercely. A few minutes later a violent explosion from within the house lifted off the roof, they said.

By the time the fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, there was virtually nothing left of the wood and iron construction.

Police said the bodies recovered from the ruins this morning, were burned almost beyond recognition.

BEAVER, PA.
COUNTY TIMES

E - 33,765

JUL 1 0 1970

Iceland Premier Killed In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Premier Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and one of their grandchildren were killed Thursday night in a fire that destroyed the prime Minister's official summer residence.

An official government spokesman, announcing the deaths, said the cause of the blaze at the Thingveller residence 31 miles outside the capital, had not been disclosed.

Radio Iceland said the granddaughter who perished in the fire was 4 or 5.

Benediktsson, 62, was appointed prime minister in 1963 and was leading a coalition government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democratic Party.

UNION CITY, N.J.
HUDSON DISPATCH

M - 55,356

JUL 11 1970

Fire, Blast Kill Iceland's Chief

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

Front
Page

Edit
Page

Other
Page

MORRISTOWN, N. J.
RECORD

E - 29,814

JUL 10 1970

Iceland Premier Dies In Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62.

ASHVILLE, N.C.

CITIZEN

M - 47,151

CITIZEN-TIMES

S - 67,768

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Prime Minister, Wife Die In House Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw

the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

PASSAIC, N. J.
HERALD-NEWS

E - 80,569

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Police Probing Prime Minister's Death

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johnson Hasstein, minister of Justice and Industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York aboard one of the airliners when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was born in Reykjavik on April 30, 1908. He studied law at the University of Iceland and later in Berlin and Copenhagen. In 1932, he became a professor at the University of Iceland and stayed in that post until 1940.

That year he became mayor of Reykjavik and stayed on until 1947 when he was named minister of justice and foreign affairs. In that capacity he was one of the signers of the Atlantic Treaty in Washington in 1949.

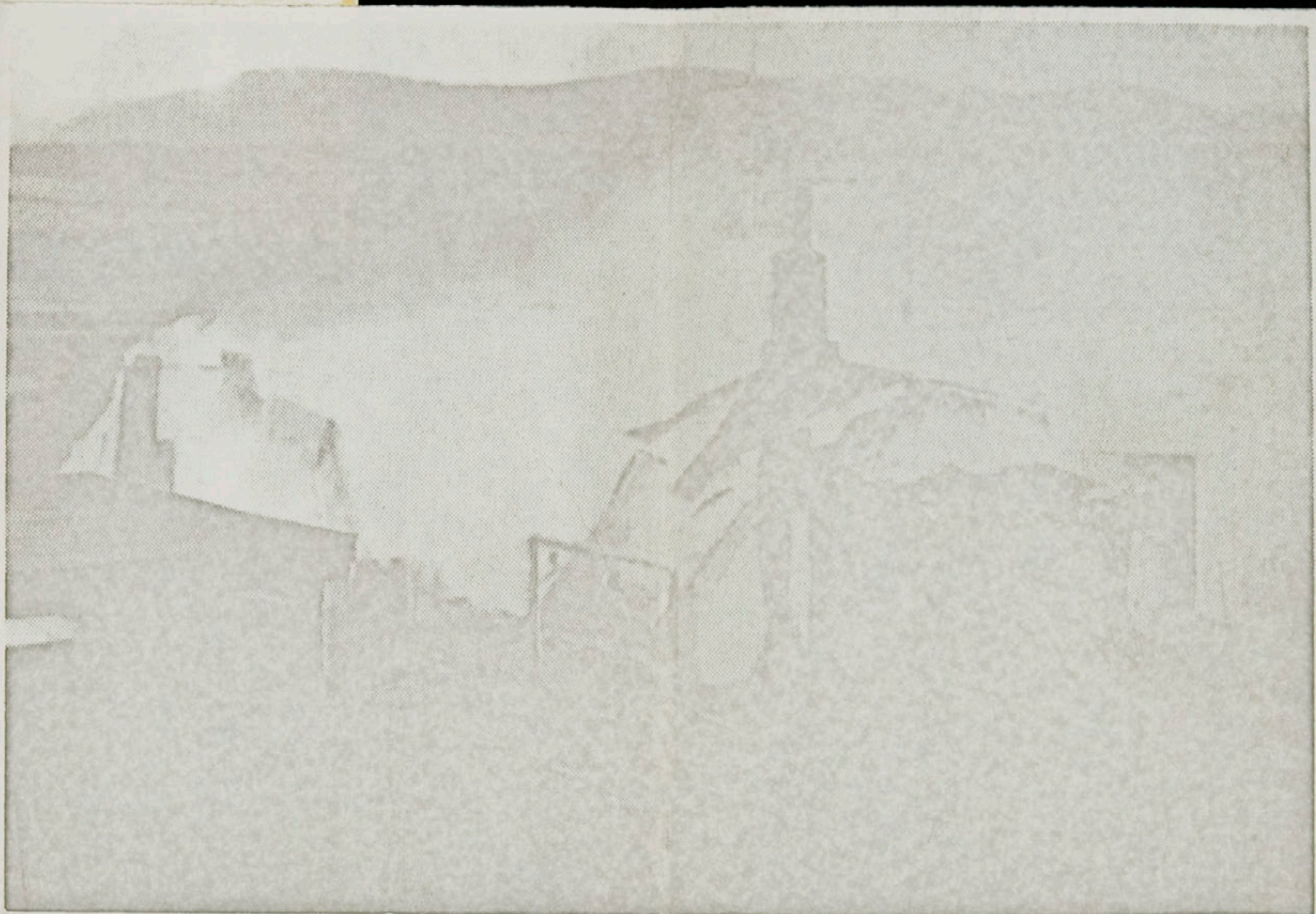
Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavik newspaper Morgunbladid and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

The summer residence at Tingvellir was on the site of the world's first parliament which dated back to 930 A.D. The house was built in 1934 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the legislature.

DANBURY, CONN.
NEWS-TIMES

E - 29,870

JUL 11 1970



Tragedy in Iceland

Iceland's prime minister, Biarni Benediktsson, his wife and 4-year-old grandson perished in this fire which

burned the Benediktsson summer house at Thingvellir to the ground late Thursday.

BEAVER FALLS, PA.
NEWS-TRIBUNE

E - 19,952

JUL 1 0 1970

Iceland Premier, Wife, Grandson Killed in Fire

REYKJAVIK. Iceland (AP) Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

WINSTON SALEM, N.C.

JOURNAL

M - 77,944

JOURNAL SENTINEL

S - 93,770

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Mourns Official's Death

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Police sifted through the ruins of a wooden cottage Friday seeking the cause of fire and explosion which killed Iceland's prime minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson during the night.

Flags were flown at half-staff throughout Iceland in mourning for the 62-year-old government chief who had wielded a powerful influence on the politics of this northern island nation. Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

A priest who lived nearby saw the flames coming from the cottage Thursday night in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, and turned in the alarm.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the fire and hastened to the scene, but by the time they reached the house, it was an inferno. A few minutes later, an explosion lifted off the roof.

When a fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik an hour later, they found only ruins and the charred remains of the prime minister, his 50-year-old wife,

Sigrídur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of Benediktsson's daughter, Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways. She was on a flight to New York when the tragedy occurred. Her husband, Vilmundar Gislason, is the son of the culture minister, Gylfi Gislason.

Benediktsson was editor of the Reykjavic newspaper Morgunblaðið and held other ministerial posts until he became prime minister in 1963.

CINCINNATI, OHIO
ENQUIRER

M - 189,425

S - 302,445

JUL 11 1970

Prime Minister Of Iceland, Wife Killed

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI)—Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and their 4-year-old grandson were killed in a fire early Friday that destroyed their summer house and plunged this nation into deep mourning.

The bodies of Benediktsson, 62, his wife, Sigridur, 60, and the couple's grandson, Benedikt Gylfason, were found in the ashes of the four-bedroom wooden house 31 miles from Reykjavik.

A few hours after the incident, the cabinet met in emergency session and named Johann Hafstein, the minister of justice and industries, as acting prime minister to guide this NATO ally of the United States pending new elections.

The house was razed before the fire brigade from Reykjavik arrived.

GREENSBORO, N.C.
RECORD

E - 33,470

JUL 11 1970

Iceland Mourns Dead Premier

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Icelanders today mourned the death of Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, killed in a fire, while Johann Hafstein, minister of justice and industry, temporarily took the reins of government in the Arctic Circle nation.

Flags were at half staff and police and firemen sifted the ruins of the summer cottage in which Benediktsson, 62, his wife and a grandson burned to death Thursday night.

President Kristjan Eldjarn, after meeting with members of the cabinet Friday, asked Hafstein to take over as acting prime minister of the coalition

government of Benediktsson's Independent party and the Social Democrats.

Witnesses who saw the flames shooting from the summer house of the prime minister in Tingvellir, 40 miles from Reykjavik, said the blaze was punctuated by an explosion that tore off the roof. The cause of the fire was not known.

After the blaze was controlled, firemen found the charred remains of Benediktsson, his 50-year-old wife, Sigridur, and grandson, Benedikt, 4.

The child was the son of the prime minister's daughter, Vala, a hostess on Icelandic Airways. She was aboard a flight to New York when the tragedy occurred.

CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

COURIER

JUL 10 1970

E - 30,013

S - 30,611

Fire sweeps home

Premier of Iceland dies

Reykjavik, Iceland (AP)

Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Chingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Johann Hasstein, minister of justice and industry, took over as acting prime minister.

Mrs. Sigrídur Benediktsson was 50; their grandson was 4.

Police sifted through the ruins in search of the cause of the tragedy.

A party of Danish tourists also saw the blaze, raised the alarm but added that by the time they reached the scene the building was an inferno and they could do nothing.

Four-year-old Benedikt Vilmundarson was the son of the prime minister's daughter Vala, an air hostess with Icelandic Airways.

Her husband, Vilmundur Gislason, is the son of the minister of culture, Dr. Gyfi Gislason.

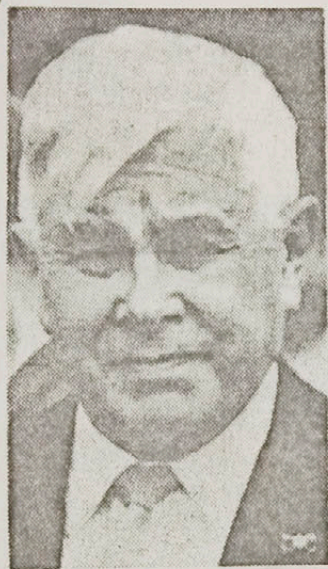
At the time of the tragedy, the boy's mother was on a flight to New York as an Icelandic Airways passenger liner,

DANVILLE, ILL.
COMMERCIAL-NEWS

E - 35,917

S - 36,119

JUL 10 1970



AP Wirephoto to The C-N

PREMIER BENEDIKTSSON AND WIFE

Iceland Premier, Wife Die in Fire

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's premier, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a grandson were killed in a fire at the premier's summer home Thursday night.

A priest living nearby discovered the fire in the wooden cottage at Ghingveille, 30 miles from Reykjavik. He raised the alarm, but when firemen reached the house, they found the three bodies.

The cottage was owned by the government and was used by members of the cabinet.

A former law professor and mayor of Reykjavik, Dr. Benediktsson was 62. He became chairman of the Independence party and premier in November 1963, when Premier Olafur Thors resigned because of his health. Benediktsson had been minister of justice and then foreign minister under Thors.

Nord-Süddeutscher Rundschau

Islands Premier verbrannt

Mit Frau und Enkel auf ungeklärte Weise — Hafstein Nachfolger

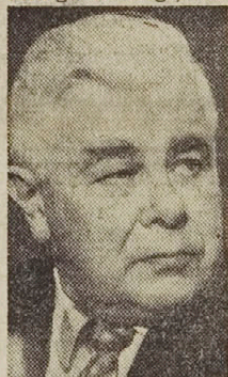
REYKJAVIK, dpa

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Der bisherige isländische Justizminister Hafstein ist am Freitag zum neuen Ministerpräsidenten von Island ernannt worden. Staatspräsident Eldjarn berief ihn als Nachfolger von Bjarni Benediktsson, der in der Nacht zum Freitag im Alter von 62 Jahren in seinem offiziellen Landsitz etwa 60 Kilometer von Reykjavik entfernt bei einem Brand umgekommen ist. Mit ihm starben seine 51jährige Frau Sigrídur und ein vierjähriger Enkel.

Dem Kabinett von Benediktsson gehörten Mitglieder der Unabhängigen Partei und der Sozialdemokraten an. Benediktsson war Vorsitzender und Hafstein, der jetzt mit der Regierungsbildung beauftragt wurde, stellvertretender Vorsitzender der Unabhängigen Partei.

Die Ursache des Brandes, der innerhalb von wenigen Minuten das aus Holz erbaute Sommerhaus des Ministerpräsidenten einäscherte, ist noch nicht bekannt. Nach Angaben der Polizei ist aus der Lage der Leichen, die inmitten der Trümmer gefunden wurden, zu entnehmen, daß Benediktsson und seine Frau noch versucht haben, den Flammen zu entkommen. Das Ehepaar wollte zusammen mit seinem En-

kelkind nur eine Nacht in dem Haus verbringen, das an der historischen Stätte Thingvalla liegt, wo früher das isländische



Parlament tagte. Angefacht wurde das Feuer von einem starken Nordwind und vermutlich auch von Öl, das aus einem explodierenden Tank ausfloß.

Bjarni Benediktsson hatte eine erstaunliche politische Karriere. 1963 wurde er Ministerpräsident.

Vor einem Jahr vollzog er den Anschluß Islands an die kleine Freihandelszone (EFTA).

Bundeskanzler Brandt hat dem antretenden isländischen Regierungschef Hafstein in einem Telegramm seine Anteilnahme an dem tragischen Tod von Ministerpräsident Benediktsson ausgesprochen. Der Ministerpräsident sei seit seinem offiziellen Besuch in der Bundesrepublik im Jahre 1966 wohlbekannt und geschätzt gewesen.

Allgemeine Zeitung
Mainz (Aufl. G 115,5)

Isländischer Ministerpräsident starb in seinem brennenden Sommerhaus

Reykjavik. (dpa) - Der isländische Ministerpräsident Benediktsson (62) ist beim Brand seines Sommerhauses ums Leben gekommen. Mit ihm verbrannten seine Frau und ein zweijähriger Enkel. Das Holzhaus, das etwa 60 Kilometer von Reykjavik entfernt lag, wurde auch von anderen Mitgliedern der Regierung zu Ferienaufenthalten benutzt. Der Brand wurde von einem Pastor entdeckt, der sich im benachbarten Thingvalla-Hof aufhielt. Er alarmierte sofort die Feuerwehr von Reykjavik. Als sie eintraf, war das Haus jedoch schon völlig niedergebrannt. In den Trümmern fand man die drei Leichen. Benediktsson wurde 1963 Ministerpräsident. Zuvor hatte er jahrelang mit kurzen Unterbrechungen verschiedene Ministerien geleitet. 1947 bis 1953 war er Außen- und Justizminister. Während seiner Amtszeit trat Island der NATO bei. Schlagzeilen machte Benediktsson, als er Anfang der 60er Jahre als damaliger Minister für Fischereigenzen mit London eine heftige Kontroverse über die Fischereirechte vor Island ausfocht.

Pfälzer Tageblatt
Landau (Aufi. G 23,0)

Islands Ministerpräsident mit seiner Familie im Sommerhaus verbrannt

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Kopenhagen (dpa) - Der isländische Ministerpräsident Bjarni Benediktsson ist in der Nacht zum Freitag beim Brand eines Sommerhauses ums Leben gekommen. Mit ihm verbrannten seine Frau und ein zweijähriger Enkel. Das Holzhaus, das etwa 60 Kilometer vor Reykjavik ent-

fernt lag, wurde von Mitgliedern der Regierung zu Ferienaufenthalten benutzt. Der Brand wurde von einem Pastor entdeckt, der sich im benachbarten Thingvalla-Hof aufhielt. Er alarmierte sofort die Feuerwehr von Reykjavik. Als sie eintraf, war das Haus jedoch schon völlig nie-

dergebrannt. In den Trümmern fand man die drei Leichen, die am Morgen nach Reykjavik gebracht wurden.

Benediktsson wurde 1963 Ministerpräsident. Zuvor hatte er jahrelang mit kurzen Unterbrechungen verschiedene Ministerien geleitet.

Der Tagesspiegel
 Berlin (Aufl. 101,7)

Islands Regierungschef bei Großfeuer in seiner Sommerresidenz verbrannt

Frau und Enkel ebenfalls umgekommen — Sondersitzung des Kabinetts

Von unserem Korrespondenten
 aus Reykjavik. Der isländische Ministerpräsident Bjarn Benediktsson ist in der Nacht zum Freitag mit seiner Frau und einem Enkelsohn bei einem Großbrand in seiner Sommerresidenz auf Island ums Leben gekommen. Das 60 Kilometer von der Hauptstadt Reykjavik entfernt liegende Holzgebäude wurde völlig zerstört. Als Brandursache wird ein schadhafter Petroleumofen vermutet.

Der Brand wurde von einem benachbarten Anwesen aus entdeckt. Rettungsmannschaften

ner konservativen Unabhängigkeitspartei mit den Sozialdemokraten. Seit 1942 Parlamentsmitglied, war er schon 1947 Außenminister seines Landes geworden. Im selben Jahr formulierte er den Protest Islands gegen den vom amerikanischen Repräsentantenhaus eingebrachten Vorschlag, die Insel als 49. Staat den USA anzugliedern. Während seiner Amtszeit trat Island der NATO bei. Von 1953 an amtierte der Politiker als Justiz- und Unterrichtsminister in Reykjavik. 1961 war er bereits für einige Monate Ministerpräsident und über-



Bei einem Brand ums Leben gekommen: Der isländische Ministerpräsident Benediktsson, Frau Benediktsson und ihr vierjähriger Enkel.

AP-Fotofax

aus Reykjavik, die eine Stunde später am Unglücksort eintrafen, konnten nichts mehr ausrichten. Sie standen vor rauchenden Trümmern. Das Ehepaar Benediktsson und ihr vierjähriges Enkelkind konnten nur noch als verkohlte Leichname geborgen werden. Sie waren offenbar im Schlaf vom Feuer überrascht worden.

Der 62jährige Benediktsson war nach einer steilen Karriere als Jurist, Journalist und Politiker 1963 Ministerpräsident Islands geworden. Er leitete eine Regierungskoalition sei-

nahm zwei Jahre später endgültig dieses Amt bis zu seinem Tode.

Berliner Morgenpost
(Auf 1.217,7)

Ehefrau und Enkel kamen in den Flammen um

exp **Reykjavik** — Grausames Schicksal des isländischen Ministerpräsidenten Bjarni Benediktsson (62): Zusammen mit seiner Frau Sigrídur und seinem vier Jahre alten Enkel Benedikt verbrannte der Regierungschef bei einem Großfeuer, das die Sommerresidenz des Politikers vernichtete.

Benediktsson hatte sich nur für einen Tag in der 50 Kilometer von der Hauptstadt Reykjavik entfernten Sommeraufenthalt des Regierungschefs erholen wollen.

Während noch keine genaue Ursache für die Feuersbrunst ermittelt werden konnte, vermuten Brandsachverständige, daß möglicherweise ein Petroleumofen die Katastrophe ausgelöst hat.

Ein Pfarrer hatte von einem Nachbarhaus aus die Flammen in dem Holzhaus entdeckt, das in Sekundenschnelle wie Zunder brannte. Als die Feuerwehr eintraf, war das Haus bis auf seine Grundmauern abgebrannt.

Der Sommersitz der isländischen Regierung befand

sich genau an der Stelle, wo im Jahre 930 das erste Parlament der Welt zusammengetreten war.

Benediktsson, der schon mit 24 Jahren Juraprofessor in seinem Land war, war seit 1963 Regierungschef des Landes. Unmittelbar nach Bekanntwerden der Katastrophe wurde der bisherige Justizminister Johan Hafstein zum amtierenden Regierungschef ernannt. Bundeskanzler Willy Brandt schickte aus Bonn ein Kondolenztelegramm.



Tot: Benedikt

Berliner Morgenpost
(Auf 1.217,7)

Islands Premier in Holzhaus verbrannt

Associated Press/dpa

Reykjavik, 11. Juli

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Der isländische Ministerpräsident Bjarni Benediktsson ist gestern früh zusammen mit seiner Frau Sigridur und seinem vierjährigen Enkel Benedikt in einem Sommerhaus der isländischen Regierung verbrannt. Das Holzhaus, das auf einem alten isländischen Thingplatz stand, diente Regierungsmitgliedern als Erholungsort und war zuvor als Gästehaus benutzt worden. So war es in diesem Jahr schon von dem zu Besuch weilenden dänischen Königspaar als Residenz gewählt worden. Über die Ursache des Brandes ist noch nichts bekannt. Nach Ansicht der Polizei kann die Ölheizung defekt gewesen sein. Eine Gruppe holländischer Touristen hat beobachtet, wie eine donnernde Explosion das Dach wegschleuderte. Das Haus brannte bis auf die Grundmauern nieder. In Island wurde Staatstrauer angeordnet. Die Flaggen sind auf halbmast gesetzt worden. Der Minister für Justiz und Industrie, Johann Hafstein wurde zum neuen Regierungschef ernannt.

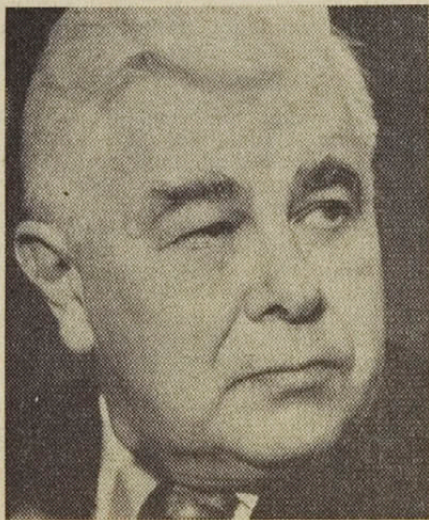
Der 62jährige Benediktsson war 1963 Ministerpräsident geworden. Vorher war er Leiter mehrerer Ministerien. unter anderem hatte er von 1947 bis 1953 das Außen- und das Justizministerium geführt.

Allgemeiner Anzeiger
Halver (3,3/66)

5450

Ministerpräsident Opfer eines Brandes

„Eine Tragödie für Island“



upi. Reykjavik. Der isländische Ministerpräsident Bjarni Benediktsson ist zusammen mit seiner Frau und einem zwei Jahre alten Enkel am späten Donnerstagabend beim Brand seines Sommerhauses Thingvellir ums Leben gekommen.

Ein Regierungssprecher, der das Unglück gestern sichtlich bewegt in der Hauptstadt Reykjavik bekanntgab, bezeichnete es als „ungeheure Tragödie für unser Land“. Der Schock sei so stark, daß viele die Nachricht noch nicht glauben können.

Nach Augenzeugenberichten wurde das Feuer in der 50 Kilometer vor Reykjavik entfernt gelegenen Residenz von einem benachbarten Hotel aus entdeckt. Als Rettungsmannschaften eintrafen, stand das Gebäude bereits lichterloh in Flammen und war in weniger als einer Stunde völlig niedergebrannt.

Stormarnar Tagblatt
 Bad Oldesloe (8,0/66)

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Isländischer Ministerpräsident verbrannte in seinem Sommerhaus



Reykjavik (dpa) — Der bisherige isländische Justizminister Hafstein ist zum neuen Ministerpräsidenten ernannt worden, nachdem der Regierungschef Bjarni Benediktsson (Foto links) in seinem hölzernen Sommerhaus etwa 60 Kilometer von Reykjavik entfernt bei einem Brand umgekommen ist.

Mit ihm starben seine 51jährige Frau Sigridur und eine vierjährige Enkeltochter (links unten).

Aus der Lage der drei Leichen, die inmitten der Trümmer gefunden wurden, ist zu entnehmen, daß Benediktsson und seine Frau noch versucht haben, den Flammen zu entkommen. Das Ehepaar wollte zusammen mit seinem Enkelkind nur eine Nacht in dem Haus verbringen, das an der historischen Stätte Thingvalla liegt, wo früher das isländische Parlament tagte.

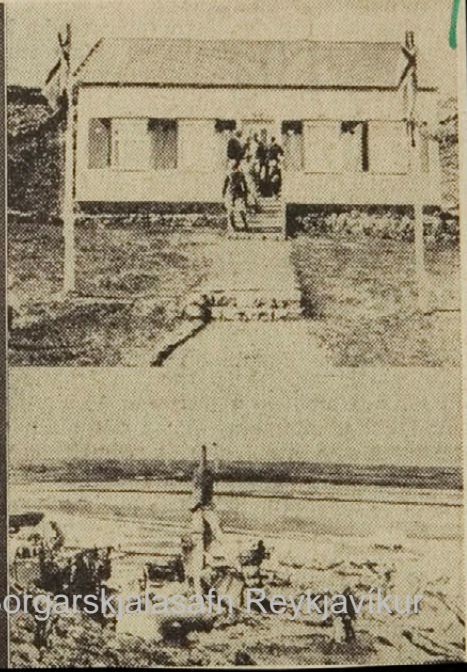
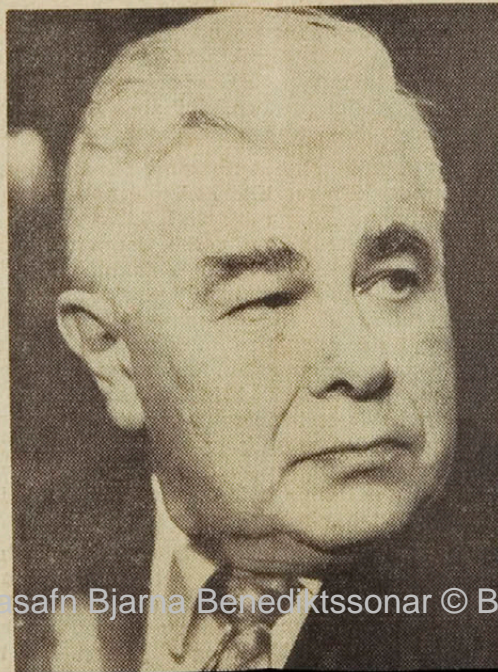


Heidelberger Tageblatt
(Aufl. G 22, 1/66)

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Islands Regierungschef im Sommerhaus verbrannt

Reykjavik. (dpa) Der isländische Ministerpräsident Bjarni Benediktsson ist in der Nacht zum Freitag beim Brand eines Sommerhauses ums Leben gekommen. Mit ihm verbrannten seine Frau und ein zweijähriger Enkel. In Reykjavik ist das Kabinett zu einer Sondersitzung einberufen worden. Der Minister für Justiz und Industrie hat bis auf weiteres die Geschäfte des Regierungschefs übernommen. Der Brand wurde von einem Pastor entdeckt, der sich in einem benachbarten Hof aufhielt. Er alarmierte sofort die Feuerwehr von Reykjavik. Als sie eintraf, war das Haus jedoch schon völlig niedergebrannt. In den Trümmern fand man die drei Leichen, die dann in die Hauptstadt gebracht wurden. Die Ursache des Brandes in dem Holzhaus bei Thingvellir ist noch nicht bekannt. Man vermutet jedoch einen Defekt an der Ölheizung. — Unser Bild rechts oben zeigt das Sommerhaus der Regierung, das nach dem explosionsartigen Brandt (Bild unten) völlig zerstört wurde. Der isländische Regierungschef Benediktsson (linkes Bild) war seit 1963 Ministerpräsident seines Landes.



Cannstatter Zeitung (14,7)

Islands Premier verbrannt

Mit Frau und Enkel auf ungeklärte Weise — Hafstein Nachfolger

REYKJAVIK, dpa

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