

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Winant and Eden

Former Prime Minister Anthony Eden, said the dispatches "died peacefully Friday in his sleep at his country home in southern England."

In his book, "Letter from Grosvenor Square" Ambassador John G. Winant, three times governor of New Hampshire, told of relaxing from World War II worries with Eden weeding the garden at that country home.

"We used to go down occasionally on a Sunday to his country house in Sussex," Winant wrote. "It was not different from London as far as the work load was concerned, and we had the same long hours hooked up to a 'scrambler' telephone, but instead of a room and desk we used to go out into the garden. I have never known anyone who cared more about flowers or vegetables or fruit trees, or wind blowing across wheatfields, or the green pastures which marked out the Sussex Downs. We used to get our fun weeding the garden. We would put our despatch boxes at either end, and when we had completed a row we would do penance by reading messages and writing the necessary replies. Then we would start again our menial task, in some subconscious fashion trying to find a sense of lasting values in the good earth. I liked Eden. I found him simple, truthful, and courageous."

Eden voiced high praise of Winant, notably at the British government's farewell ceremony in Lancaster House after President Truman

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accepted Winant's resignation, Eden then said: "Winant came to us in a dark hour in that winter of '40-41; while always 100 per cent American, watchful and mindful of his country's interests...we knew him at once for a friend. From the first, he had our confidence....There is no man on this earth with whom I had rather work in such an ordeal, in so searching a testing time, as John Gilbert Winant. Nothing but the highest standard of service would ever satisfy him—he worked much too hard—if he had his way, he'd have worked the Foreign Secretary of this country much too hard also. Patience and humor, modesty and integrity...above all, a passionate devotion to the task at hand. These things we grew to expect of him. No man was ever more thorough—nothing but the best would do."

Eden and Winant resembled each other in their approach to problems.

Each proved himself a top quality diplomat.

Editorial Comment by Edward J. Gallagher,
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