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replacing the patriarch of Constantinople. This is an historic Russian objective, now renewed.

Ambitious Alexis was all set to realize this Russian aspiration when events in Greece and Turkey forced him to cancel plans for a pan-Orthodox synod to be held in Moscow in 1948. The present Kremlin-approved expansion of the Orthodox Church may be intended to give him another chance in '51!

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**Writing The Two-Term Limit
For Presidents Into The Constitution**

It is with something of a heavy heart that constitutionalists will see the Twenty-second Amendment written into the Federal Constitution. This amendment limits future Presidents of the United States to two terms. It is the statement of the people through their legislatures that, having tried more than two terms once, they want to foreclose on similar experiments in the future.

But the instinct of free men is always to prefer flexibility and scope to formalism and narrowness. This is especially true when there is no real division between the formalists and the other camp on what ought to be done. The two-term tradition was long an unwritten law of the Constitution almost as firm as anything written in that basic document. Yet not writing it did leave a way to depart from it in extraordinary circumstances. And how do we know that reasons like those which moved the people to depart once will never recur?

That having been said, however, there would be no point in exaggerating the damage which the new rigidification is likely to do. Even deeper in the philosophy of free government than the fear of rigidity is the fear of the doctrine of the indispensable man. A ban on many-term presidents does not mean a ban on three or more terms for the point of view which a given President represents. The Jefferson-Madison-Monroe history of our early years indicates that men may drop away while basic ideas continue to guide events.

Actually, of course, it is probable that even without the hard-and-fast form of an amendment the old two-term rule would have received new support in our subsequent history from the nation's experience with its first breach. Many a legislator who voted for the Twenty-second Amendment probably had in mind recent disclosures that the inside group of 1944 backers of our first four-term President actually did not expect him to survive the term for which they nevertheless asked the people's vote.

The fact is that the presidency is now so colossal a job that too much of it must crush a physical superman. Yet the kind of President we want in the White House is normally a man of mature experience whose years, if nothing else, take him out of the physical-superman category. It is sad to see a wise old rule of unwritten practice pass into the rigid terms of a constitutional amendment, just as it is sad to see a gentleman's agreement harden into an arm's-length formal contract. But many of the men who regret the written rule of 1951 were vigorous advocates of the unwritten rule in 1940 and 1944. They will accept the popular preference now for formalism and live with the result.