

Newsmen, Ike 'Make Peace'

By ARTHUR EDSON
WASHINGTON (U)—That highly publicized war—President Eisenhower vs. the White House news men and newsmen—is over. No peace was declared officially. But President Eisenhower held his news conference and, gee whiz, Pollyanna, it was wonderful. Wonderful.

Not that the war ever did amount to much. But you may remember that last week Eisenhower became short, and sharp-tongued during the questioning.

This led to all sorts of speculation, including the theory that this proved the strain of holding down one of the world's most important jobs was beginning to take its toll.

But now—Ah, today everything was as lovely as the tulip bed on the White House lawn.

Beaming President

A beaming President, maybe a shade too genial. A polite press, maybe a bit too gentle in its queries.

And it all led up to the spot where Eisenhower reaffirmed his conviction, in ringing tones, that the news conference is here to stay.

This came when Edward T. Folliard of the Washington Post read a letter that appeared on the editorial page of his paper.

"Why should the President of this country be subjected to personal interviews with the press?" asked Chester M. Way of St. Petersburg, Fla. "Doesn't he have enough serious problems confronting him each day without being heckled by the press?"

"Why shouldn't the president give his reports to the press through his secretary?"

Now, Folliard asked, did Eisenhower agree with Way, or did he think that the news conference is a wonderful American institution?

A good laugh was had by all when Folliard finished since he obviously had supplied the answer he hoped the President would give.

Plenty to Say

And what else could the President say, surrounded as he was by men and women who do think the news conference is a fine institution?

Well, it turned out the President could say plenty.

"I like it," he said.

And he launched into a speech on how he thinks the American people like it, too, how they're interested in the president as a personality, how they like to see whether he can handle all questions thrown his way.

Of course a president may feel irritation at inconsequential questions, Eisenhower said, but he doesn't favor going back to the old days when questions were submitted in advance in writing.

"That's not good enough," he said, "in modern America."

Youths Attack ROTC Leader

KANSAS CITY (U)—An 18-year-old white student was severely beaten Wednesday when attacked by several Negro students in a corridor at Central High School.

The victim, Gerald Henderson, was unable to talk after the beating, but identified three of his assailants by writing their names on a piece of paper. Henderson suffered a badly bruised face and a swollen throat. He was taken to a hospital.

Police took four youths into custody. The four are members of an ROTC unit of which Henderson is assistant squad leader.

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