

Sea Battle Not Discussed in Seoul

Seoul—(UPI)—South Korea's government appeared yesterday to have forgotten its heated charge that a Communist Christmas clash with a Korean patrol boat was an "act of war" calling for immediate retaliation.

The Cabinet was in session for some time today, but an official spokesman said after the meeting that the weekend "sea battle" was not discussed. Korean patrols in the area have been reinforced, but no further hostilities were reported.

President Rhee, who is vacationing, did not come here for the Cabinet meeting. The 5 1/2-hour Christmas Day clash started when the patrol boat caught 14 Communist fishing boats violating South Korea's arbitrarily proclaimed "60-mile limit." Four Korean coast guardsmen were captured by the Communists, but no casualties were reported.

BLM Asks Coos Forest Land Be Withdrawn

Washington—(UPI)—The Bureau of Land Management announced today it has applied to have 642 acres of land in western Oregon withdrawn from use under mining and mineral leasing laws.

The land is located in the Coos Bay forest district. Acting Interior Secretary Clarence A. Davis said the land is wanted by the bureau as a source of hard rock material for surfacing timber access roads in the area.

Joe Palooka Creator Victim of Suicide

New York—(UPI)—Cartoonist Hammond (Ham) Fisher, creator of the comic strip "Joe Palooka" died Tuesday night in a friend's studio apartment, an apparent suicide. Fisher, 54, wrote in notes found near his body that he was despondent over his health, his eyesight had been failing for some years and he was suffering from diabetes.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE PRESIDENT'S LOAD

Mr. Eisenhower's illness has posed in a new form the old problem of the President's powers. Since the early days of the government, Americans have had differing opinions about how much power ought to be vested in the President, how much in the Congress. But in this generation the question of where power should be allocated has acquired a new dimension. We have become concerned also with the question of how much power the President, or Congress, can in fact exercise efficiently, responsibly, and without subjecting the human beings in the offices to an intolerable strain.



Walter Lippmann

It is no doubt a sheer coincidence, yet it is a symbolic coincidence, that the responsible leader of the upper house of the legislature, Senator Johnson, and the Chief Executive should both have been stricken, the one at the climax of a hard legislative session, and the other not long after he had resolved a very dangerous crisis of war and peace.

WE have been made aware of this new dimension, that of the human capacity to carry the load, because the load has become so enormously greater. It has become greater because of the wars of this century, because of the huge growth of the American population, and of American responsibilities. In the cases of Wilson, Roosevelt, and Eisenhower, we have seen men break under the load.

The load, as such, cannot be lightened; that is to say, it must be carried by someone. The needs of the people, the responsibilities of the government at home and abroad, cannot be diminished. Almost certainly they will continue to grow larger.

The Presidency, as we know it today, has been adapting itself to these greater burdens by becoming a very different office that it used to be. The Presidency is no longer a man and his secretaries and a few assistants. The Presidency is in itself a great department of the government. But for the development of this new organ of the government, it would long since have become impossible to administer the government.

IN this field Mr. Hoover speaks with special experiences and great authority. He has suggested that the load borne by the President himself could be lightened if Congress would create a new office—that of "Administrative Vice-President." Mr. Hoover thinks that of the 64 departments and agencies which now report to the President, or are supposed to, the Administrative Vice-President could handle more than half.

Assuming that the Administrative Vice-President would be accountable to the President, and that in the greatest matters the President would be accountable for the Administrative Vice-President, much good could, no doubt, come of Mr. Hoover's proposal.

BUT how much this would actually lighten the load on the President is by no means certain and obvious. In the sense that the President would have less people he had to read and to sign, it would, of course, help to save his time and his energy. But is the strain of the Presidency due to the fact that the President is overworked? Or is it due to his having so much responsibility in matters which are so often matters of life and death?

We must suppose, I would think, that what is so hard is not the work but the worry of being President. Mr. Eisenhower himself, for example, cannot be described as a President who has worked too many hours a day. But at least twice—first in Indo-China and last winter in the Formosa Straits—he has had to make agonizing decisions of war and peace. That is the kind of thing, not to mention the harassment of McCarthyism, that must have taken its toll.

Now there is no way that these hard decisions can be delegated. And since they cannot be delegated, the President cannot really afford not to keep in very close touch with the events and with the acts that precede the crisis of decision. This means if not long hours, some very hard hours.

And so, while the office of President can be made more efficient by administrative reform, by "streamlining" and the like, the office will always require the whole energy of a very energetic man.

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