

## Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

MADAM CALLED an exclusive restaurant in New York to reserve a table for a dinner party of eight. "I presume you don't know of me here in the States," she remarked with a very hoity-toity English inflection, "but in the London set I am recognized as an intimate of the Princess Margaret and the Duke of Sutherland. Check me with Van Cleef and Arpels, Tiffany's, and the Rolls Royce people if you will."



"That won't be necessary," the impressed director of the restaurant told her, "but how will we recognize you when you come in?"

"You can't miss me," the haughty voice assured him, "I have a broken nose and a black eye."

Irwin Shaw and John O'Hara are famous for devising perfect titles for their new novels, but both of them face a serious threat from a South American entry. He calls his new book, "Complete Works—and Other Stories."

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## Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

### DOUBLE STANDARD

Washington—The old man of Korea has gone out of office in heartbroken disgrace. The world's most exclusive club is shrunken yet a little more as Syngman Rhee passes from its membership. This is the association of indestructible elder statesmen.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of Germany, who is 84, leads the surviving band of those who, past 75, still carry crushing responsibilities. With him are Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel (74) and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India (70 plus some months).

At 85 Rhee has ceased to be president of the Republic of Korea. And so has come to its close a career of 65 years as a public man.

Much has been written that this aged symbol of Korea's long struggle for independence had overstayed his time. It is said, no doubt rightly, that he permitted police brutality and worse to stain his regime. It is said, no doubt justly, that a farce of "democracy" was being made in his country. So it is said that he had to go and the United States was wholly justified in helping to push him out.

THERE is no quarrel with this reasoning—so far as it goes. To the world Korea is our creation and thus our responsibility. For Korea's sake (and for the sake of collective security everywhere) was shed the blood of so many of our people in a bitter war a decade ago.

Perhaps it is possible, however, without defending corruption and anti-democratism, to raise reservations about this episode. Is the United States government as free to act to maintain the future integrity of Korea from Communist penetration as it was ready to oust bad old Rhee?

Is our righteous decision to overturn one regime—which was at any rate a determined regime—matched by equal determination to insist on a fair and strong successor regime? And having acted against Rhee on standards that are valid enough—that he had become a right-wing despot—are we ready for one other action?

### FORMER FTC MAN DIES

Washington—UPI—Harry Babcock, 69, who recently resigned as executive director of the federal trade commission, died Saturday. Babcock left the trade commission two months ago after 36 years of service to enter private law practice.

### DEATH CLAIMS WRITER

New York—UPI—F. Lawrence Babcock, 54, writer and a former associate editor of Fortune Magazine, died Saturday. Babcock, author of several industrial biographies, also had been an editor with Radio Free Europe from 1950 to 1954.

ARE we ready to apply these same standards to the left-wing despot in another country in which there is an undeniably close and historic United States responsibility; will we now help to oust the Communist-backed dictator in Cuba, Fidel Castro, as we helped to oust the supposedly pro-fascist dictator in Korea, Syngman Rhee? Or is there a double standard here? The Eisenhower administration has no difficulty in justifying a naked intervention in Korea, call it what we will. But that administration finds enormous difficulty in even thinking about intervening in any way, naked or polite, in Cuba. After all, other Latin-American nations might not like it. And the organization of American states would "forbid" it anyhow.

A nation which wants to act can find the fine print oddly hard to read. A nation which does not want to act can find the fine print compelling indeed.

SO THIS one columnist is not quite able to join the almost-universal and unqualified satisfaction that we have succeeded in casting out old Syngman Rhee in his 86th year and sending him off to end his life in the house of the pear blossoms in Seoul. It has been a famous victory. But one columnist, not denying the evils connected with the old man, also does not forget the past heroism of that old man against imperialist Communism.

This much, anyhow, history must grant him. How much does history owe to Castro, whose victims in Cuba are quite as dead as Rhee's victims in Korea? How much of the free world's struggle against imperialist Communism has Fidel Castro ever borne?

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