

# National Security Council Discusses Life-Or-Death Issues in Secret Meetings

By RUTHERFORD POATS  
United Press International  
Washington (UPI) — What should the United States do about the emergence in neighboring Cuba of a police state allied with Russia? Should the United States drop atomic bombs again in Asia if Communist China attacks the Nationalist Chinese islands, including the offshore Quemoy and Matsu? Should the western world defend against a communist political and military squeeze? If this showdown comes, should or could a Korea-type, non-atomic defensive war be fought by the western allies to keep West Berlin free? Or should a atomic retaliation against Moscow be threatened to scare off a communist adventure? What lesser threat might be made or implied? These may or may not be questions on the agenda of the U.S. National Security

Council. But they are the kind of life-or-death issues which often are debated in this super-cabinet's secret sessions. Some of the secrecy was lifted in a continuing senate investigation of NSC's role in American policy-making. Those seldom-used initials — NSC — also are being heard more often because they figure in Vice President Richard M. Nixon's Republican campaign for the presidency. Nixon has been a member of the select NSC circle, and this is a big factor in his claim to be the most experienced man available to take over the reins from President Eisenhower next January in a time of great peril. Democratic critics contend that Eisenhower has used the National Security Council and its planning board to relieve himself of most of the burden of thinking out the great is-

suces facing the nation; that this reliance on staff work has insulated him from new ideas and controversy. A senate subcommittee under Sen. Harry M. Jackson (Wash.), newly appointed chairman of the Democratic national committee, has been trying to find out whether the NSC and its related staff-coordinating machinery is geared to the speed and complexity of basic survival issues facing the nation. Speculation among senior bureaucrats here about what kind of President Nixon or Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy would make often turns to how each might shake up the NSC operation. Not Much Known Yet few Americans, even in Washington, know much about the working of this body at the summit of U. S. policy-making. It is 13 years old, and its meeting times usually are announced by the White House. But what it discusses is always kept secret. The NSC is a sort of streamlined cabinet, limited to those top officials who deal with the inter-related military and diplomatic problems affecting U.S. security. Ideally, its meetings are a vigorous, pertinent debate in front of and with the president, providing him the facts he needs to make the policy decisions. The council now includes the president, vice president, secretaries of state, defense and treasury, the director of the office of civil and defense mobilization, the budget director and the president's special assistant for security affairs. Also included often are the director of the central intelligence agency, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and the director of the U. S. information agency. Policy Studies But the NSC is more than a weekly meeting of these officials. To make these meetings with the president productive, there are NSC staff groups to prepare the policy studies and to follow up the president's decisions to see that they are carried out and to judge their effectiveness. The presidential assistant for security affairs is the chairman of the NSC planning board, which is composed of departmental officials of the assistant secretary level who speak for the departments and agencies represented on the council. The planning board is assisted by a small NSC policy coordinating staff, working under the presidential assistant. Outside consultants from universities and business sometimes are called in to do studies and present fresh ideas to the planning board and through it to the NSC. The operations coordinating board supervises execution of the presidentially approved NSC policy directives.

# Backstairs: Ike Finally Decides To Make Speeches In Behalf of Dick Nixon

By FRANK ELEAZER  
United Press International  
Washington (UPI) — Thank goodness President Eisenhower finally has decided to make a political speech or two in behalf of Vice President Richard M. Nixon. He says he will speak at a Republican fund raising dinner in Chicago, Sept. 29. He will talk for Nixon again on the eve of election day. It had looked for a while like all Ike's campaigning for the GOP ticket was going to be the non-political kind. He and his press secretary, James C. Hagerty, have tried repeatedly to explain to reporters how this type of campaigning works. The way the President puts it, he won't actually do much campaigning. But he will be out a lot making non-political speeches between now and Nov. 8. He always smiles when he says this. Just a few morning ago, Hagerty, who has proved his ability to explain anything from the federal budget to litis, was further trying to straighten us out. He said the President would make three non-political speeches on Sept. 26. Ike will fly that morning to Philadelphia to address some accountants and educators. And he will proceed to New York to speak that night to a charity dinner. That afternoon Hagerty was out of the office. His assistant, Mrs. Anne Wheaton, took over his chores. Somebody asked her whether the White House was ready to announce yet any of the President's plans for political speeches. "None beyond those Mr. Hagerty told you about this morning," she replied.

Honest, open-faced Anne, we call her. One reason the President doesn't feel the need to get out on the hustings, as he puts it, is that a president can always hold a press conference. Eisenhower has held three in three weeks since returning from his vacation in Newport, R.I. In some non-elections years he hasn't displayed quite this enthusiasm for give and take with the press. He sometimes has gone for weeks without giving out his views in this way. President Truman, in his seven years at the White House, met the press 324 times. FDR, in a little over 12 years held 998 press conferences. Ike this week held his 189th since taking office in January, 1953. He has explained on a couple of occasions why he doesn't set himself a regular schedule of, say, one press conference weekly. "I never like to conform too much," he said once. "And just to say that one particular day each week I am going to be in the same exact spot the same exact time sort of puts me down." "Now I have no objection as long as we have got the time and something else isn't on my mind, I have no objection to doing it periodically." Another time he said it was partly a matter of whim. Besides, he said he didn't like to be talking all the time. Currently, as I said, he seems to like talking. And you can look for him to do a lot more of it—mostly non-political in the best Anne Wheaton sense of the word, of course—between now and Nov. 8.

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