

# LBJ Extends Senate Style To Foreign Affairs

By JAMES MARLOW

Associated Press Analyst

WASHINGTON — Because he concentrated on home affairs there has been little chance—until now—to see how President Johnson would operate in the foreign field where his experience has been far less.

But his tactics in the past 10 days in trying to get the North Vietnamese Communists to discuss peace have provided a priceless and enduring insight into his methods with both friends and enemies abroad.

He'll do what he does at home. While an Air Force uses saturation bombing, Johnson tries to saturate people with persuasion and pressure. It was this, and his persistence, which made him this century's best Senate leader.

Now, to get the Communists talking, he has saturated the world with publicity of his efforts and foreign capitals with his emissaries.

In the Senate his policy was simple and realistic: Get all you can; if you can't get it all, get as much as you can, even if it means compromising, for something is better than nothing.

Johnson hasn't compromised in foreign affairs yet if only because so far he hasn't had to. There may be some situations in which he can't—Viet Nam, perhaps—but that's to be seen.

The classic example of Johnson as the persuasive technician was in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first in this century. He compromised to soften Southern resistance which had stopped such legislation in the past.

This angered some Negroes whose emotions made them overlook this central point:

Southern resistance would never be the same again, the civil rights forces now had their foot in the door, and the next steps would be easier and stronger. And they are.

Again the astonishing record of Congress in 1965 on major legislation—like medical care for the aged and federal aid to education, long regarded as impossible—was the product of Johnson's ceaseless maneuvering, made easier, of course, by the vast Democratic majorities.

Once Johnson determined to make this effort for peace talks, his use of emissaries to foreign capitals would probably have followed exactly the same course if there had been no publicity and all was done in secret.

The publicity put extra pressure on the Reds while serving some other useful purposes for Johnson.

If the Communists ignore his efforts, they risk looking like fanatics and losing some or much of the sympathy they have here and elsewhere.

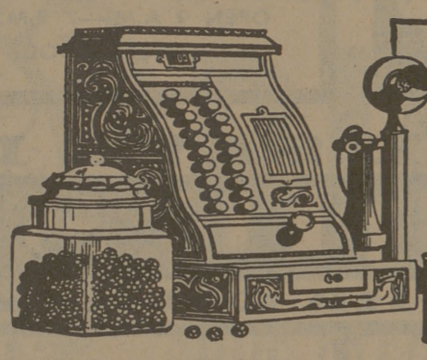
While the emissaries put pressure on the leaders they visited to do what they could to bring about discussions with the Reds, the publicity in general was an obvious effort to persuade the world of American good intentions.

And, because of the publicity, if Johnson's efforts fail, there can be less complaint here or abroad that he is war-minded or unyielding.

And all the news of Johnson's efforts should help him in Congress where he is going to have to ask lots more money to carry on the war.

A Communist rejection will deprive those in Congress who oppose the war or an increase in war spending of much of any argument that, before he seeks more funds, he should do more to seek peace.

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