

with a population of 2 million emerged as an independent nation in 1954 after the Indochina war. It has come under constant pressure from Communist China and North Vietnam, which border Laos for 600 miles.

"The House investigators got sworn testimony last March from Edward T. McNamara, former public works officer for the U.S. aid mission in Laos, that he accepted \$13,000 in bribes from the American-owned Universal Construction Co. in return for helping the firm get roadbuilding contracts.

"The Congressmen referred their findings to the Justice Department. Officials of the International Cooperation Administration said the last contract with Universal had been canceled pending a study on what claims the Government could make against the company.

"A key committee conclusion was that the State Department decided for political reasons to support a 25,000-man army in Laos 'despite contrary recommendations by the Joint Chiefs of Staff,' and that this in turn forced an aid program so big as to foster profiteering and set off inflation in Laos."

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Mr. President, the article illustrates the important fact that the money of the U.S. Treasury is being spent by an organization which claims the Executive privilege asserted by Admiral Strauss. So if the Senate confirms his nomination, how can Congress regain the power to know, in the interest of the public in every State of the Union, how the tax dollars are being spent?

Mr. CARROLL. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. I yield.

Mr. CARROLL. Will not the able Senator from Wyoming agree with me that we do not contend that the President of the United States, under the Constitution, does not have certain discretionary power? The President certainly had implied powers to prevent disclosure under the Constitution; for example, he can privately confer with the members of his administrative staff; he can hold confidential conference with his Cabinet officers; if there was an exchange of correspondence, I think it could be safely asserted that under the Constitution Congress could not seek to invade that field, and Congress has never sought to invade it.

But when an attempt is made to delegate or to assume powers which go beyond that realm and into a regulatory body—as was the case with the Atomic Energy Commission—does not the Senator from Wyoming think there is too much stretching of the doctrine of Executive privilege?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. I certainly do. I so stated during the investigation of the Dixon-Yates contract, as will be found on pages 1161 and 1162, after Mr. Strauss has asserted his claim to executive privilege. These are the words I used at that time:

"The reason I said in closing my remarks that I do not believe there is any privilege which protects the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from responding fully, frankly, and freely, to the questions asked by this committee arises from the fact that the Atomic Energy Act which established the Atomic Energy Commission was a delegation of congressional powers to the Commission which you head."