

Broadcast by Frank Bourgholtzer
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At a ceremony in the so-called Fish room of the White House this morning James S. Lay, Jr., was sworn in as executive secretary of the National Security Council. The Council thereby moved into a new phase of its existence.

The first executive secretary of the Security Council was Admiral Sidney Souers who worked on the Security Council idea from its inception, through its formulation into law by Congress and has now completed his work of shaping the Council into a new element in American Government.

Admiral Souers first thought of the Council as a counterpart of a similar institution in Great Britain. The British version was headed for a quarter of a century or more by one man who held his job through all sorts of changes of administration in the British government. However, when Souers took over the direction of the National Security Council he had to modify this concept. He had, himself, a lifelong record as a voting Democrat and was too closely identified with partisan politics, or so he thought, to be that kind of enduring director. He knew quite well that a new President like Thomas Dewey, for instance, would never have considered keeping him on as executive secretary. But at the same time he felt it extremely important that the Council have the long-range continuity that one competent career man in the top job could provide.

So he compromised and got Jim Lay to be assistant secretary of the Council. He'd known Lay during the war when they both worked on coordinating intelligence. He knew Lay as a careerist in government, unidentifiable with partisan politics, eminently qualified for the kind of work required of the Security Council and temperamentally the kind of long-enduring career man the Council should have. In the last two years Souers has kept Lay on a career level, while the painful organization of the



Council took place.

This organization was rough going for awhile because the Department of State and the Department of Defense were and are two very strong and self-willed agencies. Coordinating their activities in the field of foreign policy was a gigantic task. Souers and Lay went about it by getting the staff people in each department used to working together. By getting people all the way down the line in both departments to realize that foreign policy and military policy must follow the same path. That has been done. There have been changes at the top of both state and Defense Departments since the Council began working, but the people at the lower staff levels are pretty much the same. If Republicans took over, these staff people still would be pretty much the same. The two departments are now geared to work together with and through the Security Council. So Souers has stepped out and Lay today takes over. And the hope is that Lay can now fulfill the original dream of a Council director who is a career man, divorced from partisan politics, performing the catalytic job of the Council on a professional basis.

Jim Lay, incidentally, had his wife and three daughters with him at the ceremony today. The President said he'd like to steal one of the little girls--Carolyn, aged 9, a blonde, Pat, aged 7 (who said she used to be a redhead but is getting blonde now,) and Emily, aged 4, another blonde. They all thought the President's idea was pretty funny.