

Fulbright Hits President on Red Gains

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Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, has challenged a statement by President Eisenhower in New York Wednesday that the Communists have made no territorial gains during his administration in any area "where American influence and arms were involved."

Senator Fulbright said that "surely the President is not unaware of the following:

"1. The evacuation of the Tachen Islands and their abandonment to Communist China.

"2. Recent events in Laos, where a government friendly to the United States and one to which we have supplied nearly \$250 million in assistance has been replaced by a government friendly to the Communists.

"3. The loss of the northern half of Viet Nam to the Communists.

"4. The large-scale penetration of the Communists into the Middle East, in Iraq, Syria, and, as a result of our withdrawal from the Aswan Dam, into the United Arab Republic.

"5. The well-advertised influence of the Communists in Guinea, Ghana and in the yet unsettled and chaotic Belgian Congo.

"6. And finally, at our very doorstep, how does one regard the recent developments in Cuba where, for many years, our arms and influence have been heavily involved?"

Sees Partisanship

The Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee accused Mr. Eisenhower of becoming "bitterly partisan" after having established an exceptional record for handling foreign policy matters in a non-partisan manner for nearly eight years.

"I shudder to think," Senator Fulbright added, "what will happen if we should have a controversial and partisan occupant in the White House and a Congress controlled by the opposite party."

The Arkansas Senator interpreted Mr. Eisenhower's Wednesday night speech as a criticism of Senator Kennedy for having read and written books. The Senator noted that the President said of Vice President Nixon and Mr. Lodge: "These men didn't learn their lessons merely out of books, not even by writing books. They learned them by meeting the day-in, day-out problems of our changing world."

Defends Book Reading

Senator Fulbright said he was "brought up with the idea that reading books—of course I don't mean comic books or Westerns—was a good thing. I thought it was universally accepted by all modern men that the reading of books is one of the most efficient ways to acquire the knowledge and understanding which equips one better to deal with and to solve the 'day-in and day-out' problems which confront us. Surely the President cannot wish to discourage our citizens from reading books.

"On the other hand, he cannot be serious, in view of Senator Kennedy's 14 years of political life, considerably longer than that of the President himself, and in view of the Senator's very creditable combat record in World War II, in implying that the Senator is a bookworm in an ivory tower who knows nothing of the hardships and complexities of our troubled world."