

EVANS - NOOAK
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worse had not elder statesman liberal Averell Harriman privately intervened.

The liberal attack by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee ruthlessly cutting down G. McMurtrie Godley (former ambassador to Laos) for assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs struck new terror inside the State Department. Morale, already at its lowest since the days of Joe McCarthy, continues down.

It would have been even lower today had the committee also rejected Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William H. Sullivan as ambassador to the Philippines. That might well have happened save for the intervention of Harriman, Sullivan's longtime mentor.

Harriman, bearing gilt-edged liberal credentials himself, lobbied the liberal bloc controlling the Senate committee and managed to reduce the votes against Sullivan to three.

Still to come before the head-hunting committee is the highly-regarded Charles S. Whitehouse, returning here as acting ambassador in Saigon to run the committee's confirmation gauntlet as new ambassador to Laos. But the committee's 9 to 7 rejection of Godley may lead Mr. Nixon to change the Charles Whitehouse assignment from Laos to assistant secretary.

That's still up in the air. In either case, Whitehouse, as an old hand in Southeast Asia, will be the next Foreign Service officer to feel the smear of committee liberals, headed by chairman J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, for work performed as a public servant in the field.

Godley's rejection, for what Fulbright confided privately to high administration officials was his "overly enthusiastic" carrying out of U.S. policy in Laos, was the most overt ideological attack on a Foreign Service officer since the late Sens. Kenneth Wherry and Joseph R. McCarthy, both right-wing Republicans, crucified the reputations and diplomatic careers of the old China hands. The pretext then: revenge for their correctly reporting to Washington from pre-Communist Mainland China about the growing strength of the Communist movement.

The political guillotining of the old China hands deprived the White House of its most informed talent in the field. The same is true today. Worse, avenging liberal fury over the Vietnam war by stabbing defenseless civil servants will dull imaginative reporting from the field and turn career officers into deadbeats in a department permitted only perfunctory policymaking anyway under President Nixon.

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The revenge of Senate liberals on career Foreign Service officers for faithfully carrying out President Nixon's foreign policy might have been even