

Post

2/4/69

Pueblo Investigation Planned by House Unit

United Press International

Chairman L. Mendel Rivers announced yesterday that the House Armed Services Committee will investigate the seizure of the USS Pueblo as soon as the Navy completes its own inquiry.

"There are many unanswered questions and, I believe, many, many inconsistencies," Rep. Rivers told the Committee.

The Senate Armed Services Committee also has decided to investigate the Pueblo affair after the Navy's Court of Inquiry, now in progress at Coronado, Calif., is completed.

A telegram to one Senator by a man in Oakland, Calif., concerning the Navy's investigation of the Pueblo and its crew says: "Call your brass off Commander Bucher and his men."

The wire was typical of a growing volume of protests lawmakers are receiving from the folks back home who think the Navy is trying to make Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher the fall guy for the capture of the spy ship Pueblo.

A spot check of Senators' offices indicated almost all of the mail on the Pueblo incident was sympathetic to Bucher.

The country apparently has little taste for the go-down-with-the-ship brand of heroism.

"Had my son been serving on this man's ship, I would feel that he had done the right thing to bring my son home," a woman in Seattle wrote to Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.). "This ship did not leave as a possible suicide mission."

A woman in Carlsbad, Calif., wrote in a satirical vein to Sen. George Murphy (R-Calif.): "Of course, if the entire crew had died gallantly, we could all have had a glorious time mourning them and blaming the North Koreans."

Murphy's Pueblo mail—up to 100 letters a day—is the heaviest in Congress. He is a member of the Armed Services Committee and the ship's home port is in his State.