

RUSSELL TO SEEK PUEBLO'S ORDERS

Senator Wonders Why Crew Did Not Scuttle Vessel— He Questions Heroism

By The Associated Press

WINDER, Ga., Dec. 30—The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said today that he would ask the Navy for copies of orders given the commander of the intelligence ship Pueblo to determine why the ship had not been scuttled.

The Senator, Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, said in an interview with Atlanta radio and television station WSB that it was unfortunate the ship was not sunk when attacked last Jan. 23 by North Korean forces.

"Those men are being hailed as heroes," he said. "They are heroes in the sense that they survived the imprisonment. But they did sign a great many statements that did not reflect any great heroism in my mind."

In Washington, the Defense Department and the Navy declined comment.

The Senator called the capture of the ship "a very sad and tragic affair."

Wants to See Orders

"We presented the Russians with the result of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of research in communications," he said.

"I want to see just what orders the commander was given. It seems we are wasting a great deal of money sending such ships around the world if we take no action when danger threatens."

The 82 surviving crewmen of the Pueblo were released last week after United States officials had signed a statement, which they declared false in advance, saying that the ship had been inside North Korean waters when she had been captured.

Senator Russell said that the statement signed to gain re-

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lease of the men "is one of the strangest episodes in history."

"It may have been justified," he said, "but it looks like peculiar dealings for a great country such as ours."

Crewman Described Beating

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 30 (AP)—A 27-year-old crewman of the Pueblo told today of having been beaten by North Korean interrogators with a 2-by-4 until the board broke.

Then, said the crewman, Quartermaster 1st Cl. Charles B. Law Jr., of Chehalis, Wash., as he knelt they used a 4-by-4, and "this was followed by fists to the head, groin, thighs and legs."

In all, he told a news conference in the auditorium of the San Diego Naval Hospital, he received 250 to 300 assorted blows.

A fellow crewman, Radioman 2d Cl. Lee R. Hayes, 26 years old, of Columbus, Ohio, said, "they kept us mentally off balance and in a state of terror the whole period."

Boards Broke Again

Asked the purpose of the blows, the quartermaster said, "Who knows what's in these people's minds?"

On Dec. 12, he said, he was interrogated by four North Korean officers and "during this I was cuffed around the head."

"This continued," he said, "to where I was beaten with a 2-by-4 about five feet long . . . striking me across the head and shoulders. The stick broke in half with one of the blows."

He said that his captors continued using the two broken pieces until they broke into four pieces, "and then they came back with a 4-by-4."

He said that he had been in a kneeling position and hit with the 4-by-4 board three or four times, possibly six, and the fist blows followed.

He said that the beatings "continued off and on through the entire period" of captivity. The beating Dec. 12 was the worst, and he could not remember details of the others, he said.



Associated Press
ACCUSES NORTH KOREANS: Quartermaster 1st Cl. Charles B. Law Jr., a Pueblo crewman, telling newsmen that he and a shipmate, Radioman 2d Cl. Lee R. Hayes, rear, were beaten by North Korean interrogators after their capture. He spoke at a San Diego news conference.

The stocky, dark-haired quartermaster said that he thought there had been mental torture, too, and that it consisted of "just sitting there with people who despise your whole country."

Both men said that the beatings had increased toward the end of imprisonment. They said that the North Koreans had apparently been provoked by a photo taken of the crewmen after their capture showing their fingers in an obscene gesture.

A Navy spokesman said that both men had been directed not to answer questions about the capture of the intelligence ship off North Korea last Jan. 23 or about other details of their 11-month captivity.

Clifford Orders Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford ordered Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius today to "conduct an inquiry into the treatment of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo by the North Korean authorities."

In a memorandum he asked for a report by Friday and said, "It is my intention to forward it to the President."

The action is a follow-up to a White House spokesman's statement last week that there would be such an inquiry.

There was no word on how the inquiry would be conducted. Just what the United States might do as a result of it was also unclear.