

EXECUTIVE OMNIPOTENCE

by Tom Wicker

Washington, July 28 - President Nixon's approach to Peking, no matter how welcome it may be, was planned in secrecy, decided by Presidential fiat, carried out clandestinely and finally announced only as accomplished fact. Thus, whatever else it was, this grand diplomatic undertaking was another exercise in executive omnipotence. Though aimed at peace, the operation so far has not been much different from the hidden processes that carried the nation into the war in Vietnam, and its consequences could be even more far-reaching.

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(Remainder of column deals with Congressional efforts to limit Presidential power to wage undeclared war.)