

JOHN THOMAS DOWNEY

N.O.S.I.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1972

THE STAT

## House Leaders Left Out

# Albert Irked Over China

WASHINGTON (AP)—Speaker Carl Albert, D-Okla., today threatened "appropriate action" if House leaders are left out of future invitations given to Senate leaders to go abroad.

Obviously irked at the invitation to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of

Montana and Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania to visit China this year, Albert told a news conference "cooperation is a two-way street."

He said he had no desire to go to China and was "not blaming anyone" for the failure to include House leaders

in the invitation.

But President Nixon, he said, should invite House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs of Louisiana and House GOP Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan if he "is going to invite the Senate leaders."

"IF IT ISN'T complied with

hereafter the House will take appropriate action," he added.

Albert's comments on the China trip were in response to a question at his daily pre-session news conference.

They hope to make the trip in late spring or summer and, in Democratic leader Mansfield's words, "add a few more bricks" to the foundation laid on President Nixon's just-completed journey.

Nixon relayed Premier Chou En-lai's invitation to Mansfield and Scott yesterday, then received praise from congressional leaders as he reported on his own historic mission.

MANSFIELD, who visited China in 1921 as a Marine private and who still holds a professorship in Far East history at the University of Montana, has been trying to visit China for two years. He was last there in 1944.

The White House also said yesterday that President Nixon had spoken with Chinese leaders about John Thomas Downey, an American pilot held in China since the Korean War.

Downey, charged with espionage in 1952, had his sentence commuted from life to five years last December.

Ziegler refused to disclose details of Nixon's discussions about Downey.

REPUBLICAN Leader Scott, who has one of the country's most extensive private collections of Chinese art, last visited the mainland in 1947.

He met Chou while a U.S. delegate to a meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in New Delhi, India, in 1950.

The Pennsylvania Republican said the formal invitation to himself and Mansfield will be made when U.S.-Chinese contacts are established in a third country, possibly in about two weeks.

Scott said the trip couldn't come until Congress is in recess, possibly at the time of the national political conventions this summer.