

Rising Threat of the Presidency

Washington - (UPI) - A special senate subcommittee [the year-old Special Committee on the Termination of the National Emergency], after a painstaking computer search of the statute books, concluded yesterday the United States since 1933 has been operating under emergency rule, conferring near-authorization [authoritarian?] powers on its Presidents. .... Co-Chairmen Frank Church (D-Idaho), and Charles Mathias Jr., (R-Md), said in a foreword to the 607-page [study] that only a few delegated powers have been regularly used, but added: "It is possible that some future President could exercise this vast authority in an attempt to place the United States under authoritarian rule. While the danger of a Dictatorship arising through legal means may seem remote to us today, recent history records Hitler seizing control through the use of the emergency powers."

See also letter to Editor by Herbert S. Levine,  
NYTimes 3 Aug 73, filed W/gate.