

The Star-Telegram is an independent Democratic newspaper, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong, regardless of party politics, publishing the news fairly and impartially at all times.

Let Eisenhower Alone to Do His Job

Droves of senators, congressmen and political leaders of both parties have been beating a path to the door of General Eisenhower's Paris headquarters in recent weeks. Many of these visits no doubt have had legitimate official purpose—desire on the part of American lawmakers to inform themselves at first hand on matters concerning military aid to Europe and the progress of European defense building. But in many cases, judging by the statements made after conferences with General Eisenhower, this has not been the only purpose or even the primary one.

The evidence is that many of these pilgrimages to SHAPE headquarters have been missions of political reconnaissance. What has prompted them is eagerness to find out what role General Eisenhower is likely to play in the 1952 presidential election, whether he entertains any White House ambitions for himself and, if so, whether his preference leans toward the Democrats or the Republicans.

All such inquiries and probings General Eisenhower seems to have handled with his usual tact and aptitude for getting along with people. The visitors come away with no more real knowledge of his political intentions—if he has any—than when they went in. About all they can say for certain is what was well known before. That is that if General Eisenhower can be induced to run for the presidency at all it will be in response to an unmistakable draft and

that he will not seek or wage any fight for the nomination. General Eisenhower evidently is a man who is keeping his own political counsel, lest it interfere with the performance of the job at hand.

That being the case, we think it is time to call a halt to attempts to draw him out on politics or to draw him into politics. General Eisenhower is engaged in a job of tremendous importance and enormous difficulty. What he is doing as supreme commander of allied forces in Western Europe may well be of paramount importance to any job being done in the world today. His is the task of uniting nations, straightening out the tangle of authorities, rallying the faint-hearted, rousing the apathetic to co-operation, and thus building the military might which, in his own words, means "a secure peace attained through strength."

It is a job which would tax the skill and energies of a superman, and his performance of it will not be helped by constant prodding, nagging and questioning about his future plans in politics. On that subject, we feel sure, General Eisenhower will declare himself at the time and in the manner he deems proper. In the meantime, American politicians and those animated merely by political curiosity would do well to pattern their conduct on the advice recently given his countrymen by Winston Churchill in regard to General Eisenhower and his important mission: "Let us try to smooth his path and strengthen his hand."