

5:30 p.m.
July 22

The President met with officials of the National League of Families and Missing in Action in the cabinet room.

They were seated around the cabinet table. On either side of the president were Edmund ^{Bus} (~~Ray~~) Mills, chairman of the board of the organization, ^{Bakersfield, Calif.,} and Col. Earl P. ~~Wick~~ Hopper, executive director, Glendale, ~~Calif.~~ Ariz. Then next on the

President's right was Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, D., Meridian, Miss. Also among those present were Dr. Ted Marrs, ^{counsellor to Pres.} Special assist to President for Human Resources, and John Marsh.

One of the directors was Mrs. Barbara Lewis, wife of Lt. Col. James W. Lewis, Marshall, Texas, who has been missing the long st--10 years.

She said she has been rearing three children, one a son, now married, who plans to follow his father into the Air Force, and two daughters, 16 and 11.

"Oh, I keep busy," she replied when I asked her how she spends her time. "I work for the Missing in Action and I keep busy with church work and we have two ~~show~~ horses we are taking to shows."

Understand there are 1300 missing. The Department of Defense declared 400 of these dead recently by an incomplete record which this organization fights very hard. This group does not want DOD to declare any more dead and does not accept the DOD formula for declaration of death.

Montgomery is author of House Resolution 335, which provides for setting up a Select Committee to investigate and inquire into what resolution may be made for families of 1400 men either missing in action or "bodies not recovered". Montgomery been trying for month to get House Rules committee to report out this bill but House Leadership does not want to name any more select committees.

Montgomery's office says if North Viet Nam would permit under peace agreement an accounting and opportunity to visit crash sites that most of these men could be accounted for. Says there are a number of known crash sites where bodies yet could be identified if North Viet Nam officials would live up to agreement and let U.S. teams in.

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