

# CHICAGO'S AMERICAN

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## Eaton Assails Kennedy's Handling Of Laos Crisis

Cyrus S. Eaton, Cleveland industrialist, said here Wednesday that President Kennedy had shown "amateurish and immature" judgment in handling the Laotian crisis.

But he added that he felt the British and French were experienced enough in such situations to "get us off the hook."

What, in his opinion, did Mr. Kennedy do wrong?

"I thought it more than a little unfortunate that he announced that if we didn't get a cease-fire, we wouldn't seek a settlement," said Eaton.

The 76-year-old winner of the 1960 Lenin peace prize talked with a reporter after attending a luncheon in the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel of the Citizens Board of the University of Chicago. He is a university trustee.

"People ought to be aware that the civil war in Laos was occasioned partly by Uncle Sam's unwise policies there,"

Eaton said. "Our hope was to have a great center dedicated to the West in a largely Communist area. But it just couldn't happen, and we should have known it."

Eaton noted that France has been dealing with countries in the China-Burma area for 150 years and that Great Britain's diplomatic experience with Far Eastern nations goes back 300 years.

Eaton, a personal friend of Soviet Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev, said he would "be surprised" if Khrushchev made any efforts to solve the situation.

"Mr. Khrushchev feels that his country is in a great tussle with the United States," he observed. "He wouldn't be human if he didn't take advantage of a situation where someone wants to kick the hell out of us."