

Round two today -- in that feud between the President and House Republican Leader Gerald Ford.

To lead off -- a statement by Congressman Ford from Washington. In which he said that Mr. Johnson's weekend remarks -- were the result of an apparent misunderstanding. One that he hoped the President -- would soon correct. Ford adding: "I refuse to be baited into a verbal donnybrook with the Commander-in-chief that would play into the hands of Hanoi, Peiping and Moscow."

This later comment -- from Johnson City. The President has delivered his opinion of those who break his confidences -- said the Texas White House -- and "that is that."

MERGER

The Defense Department today urged Congressional approval - of that planned merger between the Army Reserves and the National Guard. And "as soon as possible" - because of the crisis in Viet Nam.

Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance - asserting that reorganization would not only "increase useable forces" - but further "improve their readiness."

But the outlook for Congressional approval - still dim. In part - because of Viet Nam. Key Senators said to fear that any such reorganization - would seriously weaken our reserve strength. At a time-when it could be most needed.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam itself -- another flight of American B-Fifty-Twos -- today blasted a Communist stronghold guarding that notorious Ho Chi Minh Trail. The one used by Communists in the North -- to run guns and ammunition to the Vietcong in the South.

The attack on Do Xa -- just South of the Seventeenth Parallel that separates the warring states. Indeed, first time the giant bombers have struck so close -- to North Vietnamese territory. All six previous attacks by B.-Fifty-Twos have been on Viet Cong jungle hideouts around Saigon.

Meantime, thousands of American soldiers pulled back almost empty-handed today -- from the biggest U.S. Army offensive of the war. A massive six-day search-and-destroy mission south of Saigon -- netting Eleven thousand pounds of rice -- but only four of the elusive Viet Cong guerrillas

RIVIERA

It was Dunkirk all over again today - along the French Riviera. As hundreds of pleasure boats and fishing craft - rescued thousands of vacationers from scorched ~~beaches~~ beaches.

The vacationers cut off - by a series of brush and forest fires. That raged through the night and into the early morning hours - along the ^{Mediterranean} ~~the~~ coastline east of Toulon.

Miraculously - only two reported deaths so far. That of an Eighty-three-year-old ^{French author} ~~man~~ and his Fifty-four-year-old wife - apparently overcome by smoke as they fled to safety.

Monday, August 2, 1965

(Richard Hottelet substituting)

MAFIA

In Italy - a nationwide crackdown today on organized crime. As the result of a police investigation said to show a direct connection - between the Sicilian Mafia and the American Cosa Nostra.

Among the ^{nine} ~~thirteen~~ already under arrest - Giuseppe Genco Russo - alleged chief of the Sicilian Mafia. The others including deported American gangster Frank Coppola - and two more Italian-American mobsters. Identified as Frank Garofalo - and Rosario Vitaliti.

Warrants also issued for the arrest of four ~~more~~ gang-members - believed to be in the United States. All charged with - "associating for criminal purposes."

SAUCERS

Another rash of flying saucers - reported over the past weekend. All the way from New Mexico to Kansas.

Police and newspaper switchboards flooded by dozens of callers - who saw the mysterious lights flashing across the sky. Some of the callers - police officers. Even the weather Bureau at Wichita - said to have picked up a number of the unidentified flying objects on its weather radar.

Now finally - a report from the ^{North American} ~~Washington~~ ~~the~~ Air Defense Command, ~~the~~ Stating there is no indication that the reported objects - were actually tracked on radar. Adding that therefore no aircraft were sent aloft - to try to intercept them.

The Air Force conclusion: "People who thought they were seeing flying saucers - were probably just seeing stars."

TRAINS

For the first time in more than two years -
passenger trains rolled out today on the strikebound
Florida East Coast Railway. One from Miami - headed
for Jacksonville. ^{While} /another headed in the opposite
direction.

Each of the trains preceded by a so-called -
"booby trap patrol." Two men in a special car -
checking the tracks ahead for possible sabotage.

And it was there - all right. A section of
loosened track - found about eight miles south of
Stuart, Florida. Railroad officials warning that if
a train had passed over the ~~loose rail~~ - it could
have been ~~wrecked~~ ^{WRECKED.}

The line has been plagued by such sabotage -
ever since it resumed freight service with non-union
personnel. So how long will it be able to maintain
the new passenger service? Nobody knows.

IMMIGRATION

Great Britain today cut by two-thirds - the number of Commonwealth immigrants permitted to enter the country each year. ~~It~~ A move expected to draw widespread disapproval - from affected Commonwealth members.

The quota cut from some twenty thousand - to eighty-five hundred immigrants a year. And of these - each must have a specific job awaiting him - or he must possess certain skills or qualifications.

If not - no admittance. Which means that some three hundred thousand persons on the current waiting list - are automatically barred from Britain.

FASHIONS

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Another round of fall fashion shows - today in Paris. With the most discussed - that of Yves Saint Laurent.

The man who ^{BESTOWED - OR, IF YOU WISH, -} inflicted the sack look on millions of American women - back this year with the lollipop look. Saint Laurent's "little girl" designs - featuring puffed sleeves, bib collars and short-short skirts. Also the highest bustline to date - and waistlines completely loose.

The one exception - a show-stopping wedding gown of wool knit. Covering the model skin-tight from head to toe - except for a cut-out for her face. To all appearances, the little girl - suddenly a mummy.

WILSON

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In London - the first test of strength today.

Between Labor Prime Minister Harold Wilson - and new ^{THE} Conservative leader Edward Heath.

Wilson winning his vote of confidence - ~~just~~ ^{about} as expected. Nevertheless - a moral victory for Heath. Who was declared the unofficial winner - in his first full-scale debate as Conservative spokesman.

Heath's most telling barb - perhaps that directed at Wilson's Minister of Technology. A man whom he accused of gradually undermining industrial confidence - both at home and ~~abroad.~~ ^{abroad.}

The Prime Minister - said Heath - has clearly put no tiger - but rather "a tortoise in his tank."

That's news -
as LT will say
So long until tomorrow