

CONGRESS

Mon. May 1st. 67.

For the second time in less than three weeks--Congress today quickly passed emergency legislation; blocking a threatened nationwide rail strike--set to begin at midnight tomorrow.

The new delay--good until June 19th. Hopefully, giving the President enough time--to come up with a permanent solution to the rail dispute.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam--another fierce fight today for control of Hill 881--near that phony demilitarized zone. With American Marines still trying to drive the Viet Cong from a ridge-line fortress--commanding infiltration routes from Laos and also North Viet Nam.

At last count--the Viet Cong suffering more than a hundred and eighty dead; but those remaining grimly hanging on--in the face of repeated attack. The Marines--for their part--losing forty-nine men; ~~Making this~~ their costliest action--since a battle in the same ~~area~~ area last summer.

Better luck--in the air war. American jets today resuming their attack on North Vietnamese airfields--off limits until last week. ~~In the process~~ ^{Also} American pilots bagging three more MIG's, ~~who tried to stop them~~

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RUSK

Here at home--a compelling "Peace Summary" today from Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Detailing for the first time-- a total of twenty-eight separate proposals, ⁹ put forward by nations the world over--in an effort to ease hostilities in Viet Nam. All of which were ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ approved by the United States--only, to be rejected by Hanoi.

At the same time--a call today from the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; a call for the United States-- to unleash its full military might in Viet Nam.

Congressman Rivers of South Carolina saying the war could be ended within a year--"if we were to give the military a green light."

~~By way of rebuttal this from~~ ^{About that} Dean Rusk, ^{said:-} "Our military power is so vast ~~as to be beyond~~ that the effects of its use are beyond the comprehension of man; it is so vast"--he went on--"that we dare not allow ourselves to become infuriated."

~~Meanwhile a related announcement today--~~ From the Pentagon:-

Defense Secretary ~~Robert~~ McNamara--issuing strict orders to the military establishment, ^{to} to make sure that, henceforth-- nothing ~~that~~ shall prevent the free flow of war news to the American public. Also, ~~that~~ servicemen themselves-- shall have future access to full news reports.

This--said ~~Robert~~ McNamara--~~designed~~ to insure "maximum disclosure of information--except for that which would be of material assistance to potential enemies." ~~He further~~ told the military that "news management and meddling with the news will not be tolerated--either in external public information or internal troop information."

MAY

As usual
~~Today--May One--the signal for countless~~ "May Day"

demonstrations--throughout the Communist world.

Granddaddy of them all--the annual "May Day" celebration in Moscow's Red Square. The Kremlin once again observing Russia's biggest holiday--with a massive military parade; sending seventy giant missiles--rumbling through the streets; and warning they may be needed to defend the Soviet Union--against so-called "sinister plots" from the West.

~~Be that as it may~~ American diplomats stayed to the bitter end, as opposed to the Chinese--who walked out in a huff; when a keynote speaker accused Peking--of frustrating Communist efforts to defeat U.-S. forces in Viet Nam.

~~Speaking of~~ Peking--another big parade, ~~there~~ With Red China's Chairman Mao Tse-Tung making one of his rare public appearances. Standing in an open car--and waving to hundreds of thousands of cheering Chinese. Later, watching a fireworks display--at Peking's Gate of Heavenly Peace.

Significantly, Mao is accompanied at all times--by Defense Minister Lin Biao; his heir apparent and also

chief strategist in the current Red power struggle.

Mao's chief rival--President Liu--conspicuous only by his absence.

Strangely though--one of the "worst" May Day demonstrations of all was in Franco Spain. Beginning as a series of riots--in San Sebastian; and leading finally to a pitched battle between police and students in the old part of the city.

In the end--police forced to open fire on the demonstrators; wounding one and marking the first police use of [REDACTED] firearms in San Sebastian--since the end of the Spanish Civil War twenty-eight years ago.

Law Follow May

By contrast--May One here in the states--is officially "Law Day"; by act of Congress and by Presidential proclamation. A day in commemoration of freedom under law; emphasizing the responsibility of every citizen--to obey the law and respect the rights of others.

Thus, the official theme of Law Day Sixty Seven--to wit:

"no man is above the law--and no man is below it."

President Johnson further ~~saying~~ ^{saying} "~~every American to take the law into his heart not his hands~~" I ask not blind obedience--but enlightened obedience"--said LBJ.

LONDON

One of the biggest gold robberies of all time--is reported from London. Where a gang of bandits today hijacked an armored van--carrying more than two million in pure gold bullion. Making good their escape--after blinding temporarily with ammonia a driver and two guards.

The loot--in the form of a hundred and forty gold bars. Virtually untraceable--once it is melted down. A theft unsurpassed in the annals of British crime--except for that Great Train Robbery of 1963. The loot there--more than seven million.

GREECE

A major earthquake--reported today from the ~~the~~ Epirus area of northwest Greece. Police reporting a number dead--many injured--and thousands left homeless; With fears that ^{the} toll may grow ~~as~~ reports filter in from remote villages.

At that--it could have been worse. Many residents in the area--attending church services in honor of Saint George's Day--when the quake leveled their homes.

RICHMOND

~~Good news for disabled workers--and a victory for the human spirit--in this next from Richmond, Virginia--where~~

A federal court of appeals today rejected for the first time--an age-old government rule^g to the effect that a disabled worker can earn no more than a hundred dollars a month--and still qualify for Social Security Disability Payments.

The case in point--that of a fifty-two-year-old West Virginia coal miner^g, who was ruled medically disabled~~ed~~ because of crippling back injuries. Except that he has been earning slightly more than a hundred dollars a month--as a dishwasher--trying to support a wife and nine children. Which led Social Security--to cancell his meager pension.

However, the appeals court reversing^{ed} that today--in a landmark decision. Stating in part that "the test is not whether a man by will power can stay on his feet yet another day--but whether he is disabled" under law. The court adding that strict adherence to existing procedure would penalize "those disabled persons--who because of character and a sense of responsibility for their dependants--are most deserving" of public commendation.

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House--a touch of glamor was added today
to government; With the swearing in of TV pitch-~~gack~~ lovely
Betty Furness--as the President's new advisor on consumer
affairs.

~~Betty~~ ^{Betty} Furness reporting for work--in a stylish above the
knees white shift; with accessories including a pair
of false eyelashes--not to mention a high fashion hairdo.

~~that as it may be~~ ^{Betty - not surprising -} ~~Miss Furness~~ exhibiting refreshing
candor. When asked what she thought her major problems would
be in her new job--she answered frankly: "I don't know enough
to know yet."

Smart girl.

LAS VEGAS

From Las Vegas, Nevada--a story today that would have broken a million hearts--just a few years ago. A story that even now--will cause a tear or two among the fair sex.

After all these years--Elvis Presley finally getting married. ~~Elvis~~ The thirty-two-year-old rock and roller taking ^{for} his bride--pretty Priscilla Ann Beaulieu. Twenty-two now--but only fourteen or fifteen when he first met her; way back when he was an Army private--stationed in Germany; and she the daughter of an Air Force officer--stationed nearby.

As befitting ^{one of} the world's highest paid entertainers-- Presley presenting his bride a twenty-diamond wedding ring; with the biggest sparkler--a four-karat center stone. An hour later--Presley telling reporters: "I'm still nervous." And then they were off--for a month-long honeymoon.

MAY DAY - UTAH

I doubt whether any of you are ~~too~~ much interested in where I have been spending ~~this~~ May Day. However, it has been so unusual I can't resist the temptation to tell you about it, briefly.

Our one son, Senator Lowell Thomas from Alaska, ~~has~~ been down here in the "South 48" for a few days, on a speaking tour. He had two days open, and since we are both enthusiastic skiers -- to put it mildly -- we decided to meet here at Salt Lake, and ski in the nearby Wasatch mountains. ~~However,~~ ^{Then} while those tornadoes were raging in the middle west, here we were having a tremendous blizzard, with almost everything closed in the mountains, because of the storm. ^{TP} Then, last night, storm over, and I was sure we would have glorious sunshine today. So until an hour or so ago, I have been in the mountains, only 50 minutes from Salt Lake ~~city~~, in 40 inches of light fluffy new powder snow, just about the most perfect ~~sking~~ of the entire year. So sensational in fact that I advise all skiers, who haven't put 'em away, to board the next plane for Salt Lake, ^{and come on out to} ~~ski at~~ Alta and Brighton. ^P The avalanches will all have been shot down before you arrive; ~~so there's~~ nothing to worry about; and the sparkling sunny days of spring arrived today -- May Day. ~~Butter-come-it~~ It's too good to miss. *And s-l-u-t-m.*