

L.T. SUSTAINING, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1968

(Maurie Webster, Sub.)

GOOD EVENING:

Vice President Hubert Humphrey in Paris -- an eye-witness today to a dozen hand-to-hand brawls. Riot police clashing with anti-Vietnam demonstrators -- who battled at times to within a few yards of the Vice President.

Before the day was done -- police arresting more than a hundred of the rioters. Almost all of them students -- and several of them Americans; who now find themselves liable to be deported -- for joining in the violence.

Along the way -- Hubert Humphrey lunching with French President DeGaulle. Emphasizing the U.S. commitment to Europe -- and pledging continued friendship for France. In turn, DeGaulle assuring the Vice President -- that France will remain a staunch ally of the United States.

Be that as it may -- American diplomatic officials

were reported appalled -- at the austerity of Humphrey's reception in France. No flowers at the airport -- no red carpet -- and, especially, no DeGaulle.

HARTFORD

Here at home -- a long-awaited Vietnam policy speech today -- from Michigan Governor George Romney; who is generally considered the front-runner -- among Republican Presidential possibilities.

Romney asserting that the massive American military build-up in Vietnam -- has made defeat "unthinkable." "Our military effort must succeed" -- said he.

At the same time -- the governor saying he opposes "massive military escalation" -- to induce peace negotiations. Further warning against the possibility that success on the battlefield -- will lead to inflated peace aims.

In the end -- said Romney -- the Communist Viet Cong must be given an "equal opportunity, as individuals -- for peaceful participation in shaping the future of their country." Any less -- said he -- and it will be difficult to win what he called -- the "other war" in Vietnam.

ADD HARTFORD

Reaction from Washington -- quick and straight to the point. The White House praising Romney -- for refusing "to permit the war to become an issue -- between him and the President." The governor's statement also said to be in the "great tradition -- that politics stops at the water's edge."

Nevertheless, a new peace plan -- put forward today by the government of Ceylon. Calling for representatives of both North and South Vietnam -- to meet in Ceylon to talk of peace -- free of "interference from the outside."

According to Ceylon's ambassador in Rome -- North Vietnam has already agreed to the idea "in essence." Hand contending, however, there can be no negotiations -- "as long as the United States continues to back" North Vietnam.

ROME

A related item -- from Rome. Where United Nations Secretary General U Thant -- conferred briefly today with Pope Paul.

The Pontiff urging "every possible effort -- for settlement of the Vietnam conflict." However, Thant remarking afterward -- that the prospect for peace is remote. "It is going to be a long war" -- said he.

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VIETNAM

On the other side of the globe -- heated reaction today from South Vietnamese Chief of State Thieu; over that Communist raid across the "Freedom Bridge" -- between North and South Vietnam. The raid yesterday serving as a diversion -- for a simultaneous Communist attack on nearby Quang Tri.

Thieu warning that North Vietnam -- will "have to pay a high price" for violating peaceful use of the bridge. "We have the right to respond -- with all the means at our disposal" -- said Thieu. Suggesting that such reprisal -- might well include the bombing of Hanoi; or perhaps even ground attack -- against North Vietnam itself.

MIDDLE EAST

Renewed crisis in the Holy Land -- marked today by the worst outbreak of fighting -- since the Sinai war in Nineteen-Fifty-Six. Syrian and Israeli forces -- battling each other with tanks, planes and artillery; in a border clash near Lake Tiberias -- commonly known as the Sea of Galilee.

According to Tel Aviv -- first blood drawn by Syrians -- allegedly shooting up a tractor inside Israel. Israeli border guard quickly responding in kind -- and the battle was on. Both sides -- calling for air support.

Israel later claiming to have downed six Syrian Migs -- in day-long aerial combat. The Syrians -- for their part -- claiming five kills. The fighting finally tailing off tonight -- with approach of the Jewish sabbath.

TEAMSTERS

Marathon negotiations toward a new nationwide Teamsters contract -- apparently nearing a happy ending today in Washington; when suddenly the trucking industry was hit by local strikes -- in eight U.S. cities. Raising the threat -- of a nationwide trucking tie-up.

At last report -- the industry urging Teamster officials -- to order the men back to work. Action Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons replying that he didn't know anything about the work stoppage -- but was "looking into it."

NEW YORK

After five days of "cooling off" -- labor and management negotiators are gathered again ^{tonight} in New York; trying to settle at last the ten-day-old AFTRA strike -- against the three major radio and television networks.

An AFTRA spokesman promising: "We'll stay at the table -- as long as the mediators want us to." Management commenting: "We have always indicated a willingness to sit down -- and do so now."

Earlier, the strikers receiving fresh support -- from news writers at NBC in New York; and news writers at NBC and ABC -- in Los Angeles. The writers -- for the most part -- refusing to cross AFTRA picket lines.

BAKER

Former Senate aide Bobby Baker -- sentenced to prison today for a term of one-to-three years. A Washington judge setting the penalty -- in the same courtroom where Baker was convicted two months ago; on seven counts of larceny -- income tax evasion -- and fraud.

Baker's attorney promptly announcing -- that he will file an appeal within seven days. Promising to carry the case to the Supreme Court, if necessary -- to reverse the verdict. In the meantime, Baker remains free -- in Five Thousand-dollar bond.

file today in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His estranged wife -- Ivette Powell -- asking Fifteen Hundred a month in support money for herself -- and their four-year-old son.

POWELL

Ousted Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell -- another loser today in a Washington courtroom. Federal Judge George ~~East~~ dismissing Powell's suit -- trying to force the House to take him back. The judge ruling that the courts do not have the authority -- to reverse or even to review the House action -- stripping Powell of his seat.

As with Baker -- Powell's attorneys also planning a quick appeal. One of his lawyers promising "to go upstairs" -- as he put it.

Meanwhile, Powell himself -- the target of a suit on file today in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His estranged wife -- Yvette Powell -- asking Fifteen Hundred a month in support money; for herself -- and their four-year-old son.

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House -- President Johnson met briefly today with NATO defense chiefs; in session in Washington -- to discuss NATO nuclear strategy.

The President telling his guests -- that NATO is proof "aggression does not pay -- and will never pay." And because of this -- he went on -- "it is now possible to push ahead -- with the positive work of peace in Europe."

Earlier -- the defense chiefs reporting that Nato's "existing strategic nuclear forces" -- are presently "adequate to the need."

MICHIGAN

From the University of Michigan and from UCLA -- news today of a pair of research reports; showing that new auto safety devices -- are already paying off in saved lives and reduced injuries.

Biggest life-savers -- auto seat belts; which would be even more effective -- they say -- if more of the motoring public would make use -- of the seat belts they already have. Next biggest advance -- development of the impact-absorbing steering column. All but eliminating a former frequent cause of auto death -- with the driver pinned against the steering wheel.

Third important factor -- new and heavier lamination in auto safety glass; which has wiped out the incident of severe cuts -- from cracked or shattered windshields. Fourth -- development of crushable metal for dashboards; making many severe leg injuries -- happily, a thing of the past.

WASHINGTON

Another safety note -- comes today from Washington.

Where a Texas tire specialist today urged that tires should be inflated -- not with air, but rather with pure nitrogen.

Lawrence Sperberg, of El Paso, asserting that oxygen in air -- is the number one destroyer of tire materials. Working from the inside -- to cause chemical deterioration in rubber, nylon and rayon. Under tough driving conditions -- leading inevitably to premature tire failure.

On the contrary -- no deterioration from nitrogen -- said Sperberg. Further estimating the cost of nitrogen -- at perhaps as little as twenty-five cents a tire. This -- said he -- "probably the simplest and least expensive way -- of lifting tire safety up by its bootstraps."

SACRAMENTO

Why does a mountain-climber climb a mountain? We all know the answer to that: Because it's there.

Ah, but what happens -- when he reaches the top? What are his feelings and emotions -- in that supreme moment of conquest?

Hard to define -- really. And yet at least one answer today -- from Sacramento, California; from famed mountain-climber Jim Whittaker -- first American to conquer Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

According to Jim -- his first thought on reaching the summit of Mount Everest -- was: "Okay, now how do I get down."

This is Maurie Webster -- and that's it for tonight.