

L.T. -- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A special meeting today -- at the White House. President Johnson briefing congressional leaders of both parties -- on his Guam conference and also his unsuccessful peace letter to Ho Chi Minh.

The concensus of the meeting was expressed afterward by House Minority Leader Gerald Forde, who said simply -- "We are making progress."

The White House later emphasizing -- in the words of Press Secretary George Christian -- that "the President is not going to cease his attempts -- to find some meeting ground to promote peace in Southeast Asia."

The meaning of this -- we are told: that despite Ho's rebuff -- the President's peace bid is still open.

Viet Nam

Full details of that big battle yesterday in Viet Nam's War Zone C--near the Cambodian border--just in today. U. S. commanders setting enemy losses--at perhaps as many as nine hundred men. Which would make it a record one-day battle toll--inflicted by American troops.

The winning outfit--even more amazing: in that it's a battalion of the Fourth Infantry--made up of draftees fresh from the United States, ~~many~~ young men--who fought back against odds of five to one. At times--firing artillery at point blank range--to stem the flood of Viet Cong attackers.

General ~~William C.~~ Westmoreland--commander of U. S. forces in Viet Nam--flying personally today to the scene of battle, ~~there~~ to decorate <sup>many</sup> ~~heroes of the fight~~ and to congratulate all on a job well done.

The supreme accolade--from ~~battal~~ battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Jack Bender of Bremerton, Washington. Said he: "There may be something wrong with the draft back in the states--but there's nothing wrong with the draft over here."

PANMUNJOM

A surprise hitchhiker--and an important one today--  
at Panmunjom. The vice president of the official  
North Korean Communist Central News Agency--leaping into  
a United Nations car--after a meeting of the Korean military  
armistice committee, <sup>and</sup> asking for safe passage--to South Korea.  
Request--granted. The car speeding off <sup>amid</sup> a hail of  
bullets. The defector--Yi Soo Kwang--later flown to  
safety, in Seoul.

Turin

From Turin, Italy--news today of discovery of what may well be--the biggest Soviet spy network ever found in the West. One alleged member of the ring--arrested by Italian authorities--reportedly implicating three hundred fellow agents. Almost all of them--said to be U. S. and other NATO officers.

The informant--**[REDACTED]** Giorgi Rinaldi; who toured the continent as a parachute expert--until his arrest last week with his wife and chauffeur.

Tracking down the **[REDACTED]** trio's supposed cohorts-- may be something else again. Rinaldi saying he was only able to give "cover" names--for <sup>those</sup> ~~the officers~~ involved. Nevertheless, at least two of his alleged contacts have apparently been expelled already from Italy. These--a Soviet Embassy official and his wife--who flew home today to Moscow.

London

Britain's current economic freeze--showing no signs of thawing. In fact, the Labor Government disclosing plans today--to hold the line of wages and prices for at least another fifteen months.

**E**conomic Secretary Michael Stewart--saying the government hopes to rely largely on voluntary cooperation--from Labor and **B**ig Business. But if that fails--said he--the government will not hesitate to use its compulsory powers.

Traffic Commissioner Henry Barnes of New York

said the weather bureau had "missed completely" a major snow storm -- for the third time in a month. Said Barnes: "It just seems to me that someone must make up a forecast in the afternoon -- and then go to bed and hope he's right."

## SPRING

The first full day of Spring made all the more pleasant today by a sudden snow storm, back East. Up to a foot of the fluffy white from the middle Atlantic states to NewEngland. Maybe making life trying -- for millions of commuters; but for skiers -- bliss. The weather man had predicted rain. Instead snow; just what some millions of skiers had ordered.

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One of the dreams of Astronaut Ed White--before his tragic death in Appollo One--the dream of building a youth center in the space community of Seabrook, Texas, to serve the children--he loved so well.

Today--that dream is a step closer to reality, thanks to Ed White's fellow astronauts--and ██████████ thanks to many ~~of their~~ friends and admirers.

The means of achieving it--a newly established Edward H. White-The-Second Memorial Youth Center Fund, starting with five-hundred dollars--that Ed White had earmarked for a planned youth center before his death. His prize from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics--for becoming the first U. S. space walker.

That five hundred--expected to swell to a grand total of a quarter of a million dollars in gifts and donations.

██████ To build a youth center--befitting the memory of the astronaut hero.

Speaking for ~~all~~ the astronauts--Tom Stafford saying: "all those acquainted with Ed--are certain this would carry out his ████████ wishes."

Senate

A major battle--apparently brewing today on capital hill. Over a flood of petitions from state legislatures--asking Congress for a constitutional convention. The convention aimed at rewriting the constitution--to override the U. S. Supreme Court's recent one-man, one-vote rule--on state legislative reapportionment.

Thirty-two petitions already received--with only two more needed to force Congress' hand. The big question--how many of the petitions are really valid?

Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen--for one--saying they all are. Further predicting the additional two needed petitions--will soon be approved and sent to Washington. Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin contending, however, that fully twenty-six of the petitions at hand--"cannot be accepted as valid."

Reason--says ~~that~~ Proxmire--the twenty-six states were still "unfairly apportioned--at the time they approved the petitions." To accept such action--said he--"would be like permitting all Democrats to have two votes; in a referendum to determine whether or not Democrats should have two votes."



## Safety

Fire inflation levels recommended by the auto and tire industries--too low--presenting the threat of possible blowout. According to testimony today from Doctor Robert Stiehler--of the National Bureau of Standards--before the Senate Commerce Committee.

Doctor Stiehler telling of torture tests--with new tires inflated to recommended levels; where "seventeen out of twenty-one of the tires failed--at less than five thousand miles." As compared with far fewer blowouts--when tire pressures was raised above recommended levels.

Then why do manufacturers recommend lower levels?

Because, said Doctor Stiehler--it makes for a softer ride--and reduces tread wear.

## AMBASSADORS

The nomination of four new United States ambassadors--  
announced today by the White House. Subject to Senate  
confirmation--former Governor Karl Rolvaag of Minnesota---  
~~will~~<sup>to</sup> become U. S. Ambassador to Iceland; Judge William  
Heath of Austin, Texas-- ~~to be~~ ambassador to Sweden;  
career diplomat Claude Ross--ambassador to Haiti; and  
career man John McSweeney--to Bulgaria.

AGE

A problem currently plaguing science--the question of why all living things must grow old and die. A question that takes on added human significance--with every new advance in the elimination of man-killing disease.

Latest theory--that of American genetecist L. E. Orgel; that so-called--"error explanation." Doctor Orgel holding that death is the inevitable result of errors--occurring in the patterns of protein that determines life; Errors that inevitably pop up--in any process based on endless repetition. In other words--the process of endless reproduction; which is life--as we know it.

And now--supporting evidence from a pair of British scientists; who have put Doctor Orgel's theories to the test, in a series of experiments with fruit flies; by inducing miniscule changes in protein patterns of the fruit flies--; the scientists rapidly advancing their aging process; Reducing the average life span--to a matter of hours.

Conclusion--by reverse logic: that the perfect fruit fly-- and thus the perfect man--could live indefinitely and never get old. Unfortunately--nobody's perfect--yet.

And a - l - u - + - morrow.