

Mon. Mar. 11 - 68

In a crowded Senate hearing room -- part one today of "The Great Debate" -- Sixty-Eight." Administration critics taking on Secretary of State Dean Rusk - in a "no holds barred" public confrontation broadcast around the ~~world~~ world. Subject: The war in Vietnam - which looms as the key issue in the upcoming Presidential campaign.

~~First to the attack~~ - Senator Fulbright of Arkansas; repeating once again - his now-familiar arguments. ^{as he put it: -} "The light of the American example burns dim around the world"; - ~~said he~~; adding that America had stumbled and provoked its way - into a dead end in Vietnam; to the point - said he - where "our allies are ~~alienated~~ alienated and our people divided."

Point by point - Dean Rusk refuting Fulbright's arguments. Asserting that America has no ~~choice~~ choice - but to continue to fight in Vietnam. At stake - said he -

is not only "some esoteric domino theory" - but the
futures of Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, ^{- and other areas too,} Adding that
U.S. failure to fulfill its commitments - could prove "a
giant stop down the road to a third World War."

There was more - much more. Perhaps the
most hopeful note though - an assertion by Dean Rusk;
to the effect that for all this - Americans of every
persuasion still seek essentially the same thing in
Vietnam; a just and lasting peace.

Then why the great frustration? Because of
Hanoi -- said Dean Rusk. Citing case after case where
Hanoi has refused time and again - every peace offer
so far put forward.

MANCHESTER FOLLOW SENATOR

At the same time, Senator versus Senator today
at Manchester, New Hampshire; on the eve of that State's
- first-in-the-nation presidential primary,

Party of the first part - Democratic Senator
McIntyre of New Hampshire; attacking Democratic peace
candidate Senator McCarthy for urging enactment of
special draft deferments; draft deferments - in his own
words - "for those who had a deep and probable moral
objection to the war" in Vietnam.

~~Said McIntyre -- "This is a cruel affront - to
those who have answered their country's call to duty."
He ~~drank~~ branded it further ^{as} an attempt "to honor
~~the~~ draft dodgers and dissenters" - ^{something} that could "destroy
the very fabric of our national devotion."~~

In reply - McCarthy charging McIntyre with
"distortions and slanders;" part of a smear campaign by
"President Johnson's supporters" - said he - to cast
doubt "upon my patriotism and loyalty."

NIXON FOLLOW MANCHESTER

On the Republican side -- Richard Nixon was also headquartered today at Manchester, ~~There saying he~~ ~~was~~ confident he ^{will} ~~would~~ get - an "overwhelming vote" in tomorrow's balloting. "A victory" - said he - "that will "start a great landslide rolling across the nation."

~~What about~~
~~Be that as it may~~ X New York's Governor Rockefeller [#] ~~remains the big question mark~~, Whether he ^{will be} ~~will become, in fact~~ an active candidate ~~to be~~ ^{— to be} ~~said to~~ depend ~~greatly~~ on his write-in showing in New Hampshire.

PENTAGON

Speaking of the draft -- a tabulation of recent selective service figures comes today from the Pentagon; ~~in many ways - an eye opener.~~

~~For example~~ ^{with} a head count of ~~no~~ convicted draft violators over the past three years -- totaling only fourteen hundred and eleven men. ~~An~~ ^{This} infinitesimal ~~amount~~ ^{number} ~~when~~ compared to the millions ~~of men~~ processed. ~~Significantly,~~ The number of would-be draft evaders ~~is also~~ smaller by far than that for any comparable war-period in U. S. history.

As for deferments - nearly two million now in effect in the student classification. This a distant second though -- to the largest single category for ~~for~~ deferments; ~~consisting of~~ ^{the} nearly four million young Americans ~~who~~ who have recently become fathers.

GENEVA

At that marathon Geneva disarmament conference -- agreement at last today on a package nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Including - one -- a ban on the spread of nuclear weapons; coupled with a pledge from the United States and Russia -- to provide a "nuclear umbrella" for all nations signing the pact. ^{The} ^{of this} Final version ^λ now set for presentation to the full U N General Assembly - probably late this week.

~~By the way~~ The only dissenting voice today - ~~that~~ ~~of~~ Communist Romania - whose delegate offered a series of ~~main~~ amendments; ~~apparently~~ ^{mainly} ~~trying~~ trying to prove ~~that~~ Romania speaks for itself -- instead of toeing the Russian line.

WARSAW - PRAGUE FOLLOW GENEVA

Same message broadcast loud and clear today -
from Communist Poland = also Communist Czechoslovakia.

In Warsaw - thousands of ~~stuffy~~ students battling
riot police; in the after-math to ^{the} government closing of an
anti-Soviet play - called, "The Muscovites rule us."

Meanwhile, in Prague -- veteran Czech party members
were warning against the breakneck pace of recent Communist
"liberalization" under the new leadership of youthful
party chief Alexander Dubcek.

~~This according to Kremlinologists symptomatic~~

5/2 ~~of a~~ wave of unrest and change ^{seems to be} ~~currently~~ sweeping across
Eastern Europe, signaling perhaps the greatest turbulence -
since the ~~the~~ Iron Curtain uprisings of Nineteen Fifty-Six.

RIGHTS FOLLOW WARSAW-PRAGUE

Here at home -- a compromise Civil Rights bill -- including a controversial open housing amendment -- finally approved today by the U.S. Senate. Next stop -- the House, ~~of representatives,~~ where the bill's fate would seem to lie in the hands of Republican leaders -- who are still publicly undecided.

VATICAN

For the first time in nearly two hundred years -

Catholics are now free to become Masons. This - according

to word today from the Vatican, ~~in Rome.~~ ~~Reporting virtual~~

We hear this means virtual
abandonment of an old Church law - automatically

excommunicating ~~Catho~~ Catholics who became Masons, Warren.

The ^{old} law ~~itself~~ soon to be rewritten - we are told - in

keeping with the Church's recent Ecumenical movement.

~~Only one scheduled exception - the ~~Emop~~ European
Grand Orient Lodge; active chiefly in Italy and France -
and still considered anti-Catholic or Atheistic.~~

NEW YORK - London

Britain's legendary London Bridge - officially offered for sale today in the United States. ~~On arrival~~

On arrival at New York City - London Councillor Ivan Luckin making his first sales pitch, Announcing that bids will be accepted on the one hundred and forty year old structure - till the end of this month.

The London Bridge - an excellent bargain - said Luckin. Indeed, a solid buy - said he - well worth an estimated two and a half to three million. The Councillor emphasizing that no matter what you may hear - ~~the~~ London Bridge is not falling down.