

CAPITOL HILL

Tues. June 18-68.

On Capitol Hill - a giant first step today toward the passing of strict new gun controls. With a Senate judiciary subcommittee approving by a vote of nine to nothing \wedge President Johnson's proposed ban on the mail order ~~sale~~^{sale} of rifles and shotguns.

Supporters of the bill - including Senator Hruska of Nebraska; heretofore, one of the chief senate foes - of legislation to ban mail order sales of any guns.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

Minutes later - from Air Force One high
over Texas -- President Johnson voicing quick approval
of the vote. "I am delighted at the action" -- said he.
Further expressing his hope that the full judiciary
committee will now "promptly approve the action of its
subcommittee - and send the bill to the Senate floor
for immediate consideration." The President adding:
"Americans should not have to wait any longer for a
strict gun control law -- the time for action is now."

VIOLENCE

Elsewhere in Washington - the President's new commission on violence held its first working session today. Chairman Milton Eisenhower - later saying the commission will investigate three major areas of lawlessness: political assassination - criminal attacks on individuals - and mass disorders such as riots.

"We are today - a free, open and progressive society" - said Milton Eisenhower. Adding: "We shall remain so - by finding ways to achieve our goals without violence" by demonstrating "that liberty, progress and order - are not irreconcilable."

SINAI

In the Middle East - for the first time in a year -- fighting again in the Sinai. With an Egyptian commando force - crossing the Suez Canal today.

~~to~~ Penetrating some twenty miles -- into Israeli-occupied ~~territory~~ territory. Setting up an attack on ~~these~~ Israeli positions - near the Sinai town of Romani.

According to Jerusalem though - the Egyptians were quickly routed by Israelⁱ troops. Indeed, five bodies later returned to Egypt - through the international Red Cross.

SAIGON

Surrender in Saigon. One hundred and twenty-one Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops - tossing in the towel today; after three days of bitter fighting - with South Vietnamese Marines. The group including only ten - who escaped the battle unscathed. One of these - a fourteen year old boy; who explained that -- "all of my friends have been killed or wounded."

This is the largest mass surrender of the war - ending for now, at least, the current battle of Saigon. With an American officer saying: "They were damn smart to call it quits -- or they'd all be dead now."

PARIS

In Paris - ninth round peace talks will be getting under way in a matter of hours, ~~now~~. Diplomatic observers noting in advance - that Hanoi's recent military moves in South Vietnam seem to have backfired. With world opinion - swinging over to the United States. Perhaps to the point where North Vietnam will agree at last - to private talks that could prove more fruitful.

This - sheer speculation, of course, Hanoi, as yet, giving no sign -- of a desire to enter into meaningful discussions. Still- hope spring^s eternal.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - a blast today from Secretary General U Thant, Accusing both the United States and North Vietnam of escalating the war - since the start of Paris talks. However, Thant particularly condemning what he called - the Viet Cong's "barbarous raids" on South Vietnamese cities.

WALTER REED

At Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington -
the prognosis continues good today for former President
Eisenhower. Doctors reporting that Ike is making "very
encouraging progress" -- from his most recent heart
attack Saturday night. Adding that he's been sleeping well
-- and "there has been no recurrence of chest pain."
Under the circumstances - welcome news, indeed.

LONDON

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Maximum security again the order of the day -
as James Earl Ray today made his second appearance
in a London court. This - to hear a U S request for
extradition. Magistrate Frank Milton immediately
ordering Ray held without ~~cash~~ bail - pending a
hearing June twenty-seven. Ray's British attorney
later indicating he will fight the case - all the way to
the last appeals court in Britain.

DEGAULLE

France's "great strike of sixty-eight" - all but ended today. With the return to work - of some eighty-five thousand Renault employees. Leaving only a handful of remaining strikers - where once there were ten million.

Meanwhile, ~~French~~ President DeGaulle - is said to be supremely confident of winning Sunday's national election. So much so - that he's already drafting a series of sweeping economic and social reform bills. This a kind of French "new deal" - we are told; to be passed, hopefully, this summer - by the new French Parliament.

PETTICOAT

0/2
A so-called "petticoat revolution" at a Ford production plant in London - is tonight rapidly approaching ~~as~~ a national crisis.

In the beginning - eleven days ago - the tie-up involving less than two hundred women upholstery stitchers - demanding equal pay with men. Now, however, the snowball effect of the women's strike - idling some four thousand men workers. Costing the nation nearly two million a day - in exports alone. With a women's sympathy strike in a second Ford plant - threatening to idle an additional thirty-six thousand over the next two weeks.

5/4
Meantime, the lady strikers today ^{WERE} rejecting a male "peace plan" - calling for a board of inquiry to study the wage ~~is~~ situation. Shop Steward Lillian O'Callaghan asserting: "We are not interested in committees being formed! - we want more money!"

GENERAL

Saigon again - a first press conference today for General Nguyen Van Vinh -- the capital's new military commander; urging the people of Saigon to adopt an "aggressive attitude" -- as the best defense against Viet Cong rocket and mortar attacks.

At the same time though - General Vinh discounting Viet Cong threats of a hundred-day rocket barrage. Main reason -- said he: "When the Viet Cong say they will do something - they never do it."

So says General Vinh - and s-l-u-t-m.