

L.T. Buick, Fisher Man, Feb. 7th 66,

HAWAII

Against a background of driving rain--the start of historic talks today high above Pearl Harbor.

President Johnson and the U.S. High Command--conferring with top officials of South Viet Nam. In the bomb-proof, super-secret Command Center--of America's far-flung Pacific forces.

The talks beginning at precisely ten-thirty-five--Hawaii-time; continuing off and on through the day--and, it's expected, far into the night; In the search for a means of halting Communist aggression--and building a better life for the people of South Viet Nam.

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VIET NAM

Far across the Pacific--American troops today snapped shut the biggest trap--they'd ever set in Viet Nam. Some twenty thousand U.S. Air Cavalrymen and Marines joining forces at An Lao Valley--a Communist stronghold for twenty years, Only to find that entrenched enemy forces--had long since fled to nearby rugged mountains.

Just one Viet Cong reported killed--as U.S. troops swept virtually unopposed through the valley. The only American casualties--those suffered by men who stepped on hidden bamboo stakes. This the same valley where Communists ^{handed} ~~handed~~ the government a crushing defeat--two years ago.

In the air war--American jets today launched their heaviest barrage against North Viet Nam--since the end of that thirty-seven-day bombing lull. The combined strike marking the first anniversary--of almost daily bombing of the Communist North.

RIGHTS

Back in Washington--the House today rammed through a new GI Bill of Rights, providing a wide range of benefits--for veterans of Viet Nam. Also for all others who have served in the cold war over the past decade, as well as for any others--who will do so in the future.

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Schooling benefits of the bill--ranging to a high of fifty-four hundred dollars for qualified ex-servicemen. Additional benefits including home loan guarantees--employment counseling--federal job preference--and certain medical and hospital rights.

Speedy approval predicted in the Senate--which passed a similar version of the same bill last year. The measure thus apparently destined to be the first major legislation--of the new session of Congress.

INTEREST FOLLOW RIGHTS

Also from Washington--a government order today that will raise the cost of housebuying--all across the nation. The new Department of Housing and Urban Development--approving an increase in the FHA interest rate--from five-and-a-quarter to five-and-a-half per cent. The rate boost said to be necessary--"to assure a flow of funds" from private lenders.

Expected cost to the individual homebuyer:

About a thousand dollars on a twenty-thousand-dollar house--
over the life of a ^(twenty)~~twenty~~-year loan.

CAPE FOLLOW MOON

~~Head at home~~ At Cape Kennedy--a leak in a fuel line today halted a key dress rehearsal--for the launch of America's first Apollo moonship. The Apollo countdown three hours and twenty minutes from mock blast-off-- when the drill was "scrubbed."

A second try set for late tomorrow and early Wednesday--^{will}~~can~~ attempt to clear the way for actual lift-off in two weeks. The moonship's initial pilotless flight--first step in a twenty-one-billion-dollar drive-- to land an American on the moon by nineteen-sixty-nine.

WEATHER

The weather picture tonight across the nation -- more like a kaleidoscope of clashing elements.

Heavy snows in the Northern and Central Rockies -- spilling over into the Great Plains. Dense fog in Iowa and Illinois -- closing airports and causing scores of traffic accidents. Bitter cold in Upstate New York; thirty-two below at Wanakena -- a record twenty below at Syracuse.

QUAKE

A remote and mountainous region of West Pakistan--was hit today by a severe earthquake. The epicenter near the Iranian border--registering six-point-one on the Richter scale. First reports reaching ~~KARACHI~~^{Karachi} indicating at least five dead, All of ~~them~~ women--buried in a landslide ~~triggered~~^{set off} by the quake.

From Tokyo--an explanation today for the mysterious disappearance of D.N. Aidit, Indonesia's leading Communist--the man who led that attempted coup last October against President Sukarno.

A Tokyo newspaper reporting that Aidit was captured by the Indonesian Army--on November Twenty-second, later confessed his part in the coup--and was then summarily executed. The story documented by photos taken of Aidit--while he was apparently under ~~an~~ Army guard.

In his alleged confession--Aidit is said to have admitted that he intended to seize power in Indonesia in nineteen-seventy, but was forced to act sooner--when the Army decided to seize all Communist arms.

VOTE

A political newcomer by the name of Jose Joaquin Trejos Fernandez--has apparently been elected the new president of Costa Rica. First returns from San Jose--today giving Trejos a lead of some five thousand votes. With about two-thirds of the total ~~votes~~ tally--now in.

Trejos' triumph over the government party machine--engineered by three ex-presidents of the tiny Central American republic. Trejos himself a former student at the University of Chicago--who later became dean of economics at the University of Costa Rica.

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MOON

A second set of pictures from the moon--shown to the Russian people today by Moscow television. Including a full three-hundred-and-six-degree sweep of the lunar landscape--taken by a wide-angle camera aboard the Luna-Nine. At one point--the camera picking up a chunk of the spacecraft --that apparently broke off at impact.

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Meanwhile, the London Evening Standard today defended the earlier British pirating--of first photos from the moon, asserting that Russia's refusal to sign international copyright agreements--made the pictures fair game.

The Standard noting that for years--Russia has printed the works of Western authors--without paying royalties. Adding that for once--^{Warren - that}the Russians have been given a sharp reminder--that "a copyright can work both ways."

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