

LONDON

Thurs, Mar. 14 - '68.

From London to Hong Kong and all points between - the world money market was staggered today = by the biggest gold rush in history. Speculators and hoarders - in a panic stampede to buy the precious metal. Convinced the United States will be forced to take action soon - raising the price of gold from its present thirty-five dollars an ounce, and thus - for all practical purposes - devalue the dollar.

This -- "utter nonsense: - according to U S Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler; who, nevertheless, pleaded ~~with~~ today with Congress - to enact the President's requested tax increase within thirty days. Purpose - said he: To check the outflow of U S gold - before it is too late; also, to preserve "the international monetary system -- as we know it today."

ADD LONDON

Now this latest : The U S Federal Reserve

Board ~~today~~ ~~raising~~ tonight raising its discount ~~rate~~ rate
from four and a half percent ~~to~~ to an even five percent.

Which will mean a probable half percent increase on
future loan rates - throughout the nation's economy.

The rate hike intended, hopefully, to ~~not~~ attract foreign
investments - that might otherwise end up in increased
gold demands.

SAIGON

~~Halfway round the world - Another "D-Day"~~

~~today~~ ^{From} at Saigon, ~~"D" for death - as embodied in~~ weekly casualty figures.

~~American losses for the past seven days~~

~~set at five hundred and nine men. Twenty seven or hundred~~

~~were recorded - making it~~ The costliest week of the war

for ^{our} ~~US~~ forces. South Vietnamese ~~no losses~~ accounting

~~for an additional four hundred and eighteen men, ^{As}~~

~~as against Enemy losses, ^{ten times greater,} set at four thousand three~~

~~hundred and thirty five~~

Meanwhile, from Khe Sanh, ~~- report today~~

that U S Marines "~~are~~" tired of sitting around ~~like~~

cannon fodder." ~~American~~ Newsmen at the scene saying

they want to attack - ~~they want to~~ tangle² with the ~~enemy~~

enemy now; rather than let Hanoi - call the tune.

POLITICAL

~~On the political front here at home - the~~

~~professionals~~ ^{Political pros} are still trying to figure out what happened in New Hampshire - and why; ~~Meaning~~ ^{with} the press and public having a field day. Reports coming from ~~Entire~~ California, Wisconsin, ~~ikx~~ Illinois -- that Robert Kennedy has definitely decided to enter the race. His announcement - supposedly expected within the week.

Be that as it may - Senator McCarthy served notice today ^{that} he has no intention of stepping aside. ~~Here~~

~~Entering~~ two more presidential primaries - ~~upcoming~~ ~~in~~ Indiana and South Dakota.

On the Republican side - Richard Nixon was campaigning ~~hard again today at Marshfield~~ ⁱⁿ Wisconsin ~~was~~ calling for ~~an~~ "Eisenhower diplomacy" in ~~South~~ Vietnam - ^{also} ~~called for~~ increased use of South Vietnamese troops.

While at Annapolis -- Maryland, Governor Agnew was taking personal command - of a national "draft Rockefeller" movement.

HOUSE

Alleged chicanery in Congress - the target today of a long-awaited house ethics committee report. Principal recommendations including: One - that Congressmen should be required to disclose the source - though not the amount - of their outside income. Two - that house members should be barred from using campaign funds - for their own personal use. And three - that Congressmen should be barred from accepting gifts - from lobbyists and vested interests.

This "ethics" package - now goes before the full house; where formal approval - in some form or other - is expected shortly.

PRAGUE

Behind the Iron Curtain - the focus of mass protest shifts today from Poland to Czechoslovakia.

In Prague - a student organization presenting a resolution to the Czech Communist party Central Committee,


~~Demanding a return to -- quote -- "fundamental Democratic freedoms -- freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of assembly."~~

~~The students also demanding dismissal of judges and prosecutors - who took part in Stalinist purges of an earlier era. Insisting that those "who are guilty of past errors -- must be held responsible -- irrespective of their position."~~

RESIGN FOLLOW PRAGUE

At the same time - news today that Michael Chudik has attempted to resign - as chairman of the powerful Slovak national council. Chudik -- a long-time chief lieutenant to President Novotny, who himself was recently deposed - as head of the Czech Communist Party.

Only trouble ^{But} the party ~~has now rejected~~ Chudik's resignation. Demanding instead that he be ^{-fired,} dismissed -- for alleged "loss of confidence." Party leaders telling Chudik, in effect: ~~"You can't quit - we're going to fire you."~~



ADD RESIGN

A later development: The Czech Deputy

Defense Minister - Colonel-General Vladimir Janko - is reported tonight to have committed suicide. ~~SECRET~~

Janko supposedly linked to Major General Jan Smejna - who defected last month to the United States.

PINS

Instant recognition - ~~the goal~~ ^{that's the} goal of a proposal raised today in the House of Representatives, calling for creation of a gold lapel pin ^{to} immediately identify ~~ing~~ the wearer as a ~~my~~ member of Congress.

~~This as a means of ending those embarrassing moments on Capitol Hill - when a Congressman is accidentally snubbed or slighted, or worse - ignored.~~

One of the chief backers of the plan:

Seventy-six year old veteran Congressman Madden of Indiana - a former Chairman of the House Ways and Means

Committee, ^{Who} ~~Recalling~~ ^{ed} an incident a few years back -

when he spotted a young ~~bodyxxx~~ lad churning up the

House aisle ^{-- shouted} ~~shouted~~ [^] "boy"! -- and handed him a message to deliver.

Rather than offend Madden - the youth did

^{Who was the youth? Why a} deliver the message. ~~that young~~ [^] young Congressman who

soon ~~to~~ became a Senator - and finally President - ^{J.F.K.} ~~the~~

~~late President John F. Kennedy.~~

ROME

"Pop-rock" versus the Vatican. Story today - from Rome; where Vatican authorities sharply criticized a group of priests - for conducting ~~an~~ unauthorized "beat" masses. These drawing capacity crowds of late -- to the famed Church of the St. Alessio Falconieri Seminary.

Y₂
This ~~is~~ threatening the Church with "international repercussions" - said the Vatican.

The "beat" masses usually featuring a "rock" group called "the Vitamins." Complete with electric guitars - pounding drums - an^l electronic organ. Their favorite offering -- ^{— Warren —} a religious chant to the tune of - "We shall overcome."

MACALESTER COLLEGE FOLLOW ROME

Here on our own shores - a modern Presbyterian Minister looks at his church. As Dr. John Bodo - a noted theologian - also chaplain at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota ^λ Asserting flatly that age-old arguments "proving" the existence of God - actually "prove nothing" - to use his own words. Further saying that true belief must be based on "faith without knowledge - trust without proof."

What about those who claim that - God is dead? Same story - says Dr. Bodo - no real proof of that either. Which means we are all - perforce - agnostics ^{said} ~~he went~~ Adding as his definition of a "believing agnostic" - such as himself: One with supreme confidence that "God is not dead" - nor even "asleep."