

HANOI

Wed. Apr. 3 - '68.

For the first time in the Vietnam war - a sudden flash of light today - at the end of that ^{so-called} "long tunnel!" ~~they are always talking about.~~ As you doubtless know - Hanoi offering to open preliminary talks with the United States. Preliminary talks on a possible future peace parley ~~in~~ that could lead to a permanent cease-fire, ~~in Vietnam.~~

Reaction ~~from~~ Washington } guarded - yet ~~clearly~~ optimistic. President Johnson saying he was "very interested." The bombing pause he announced Sunday night - a "positive step" toward peace - said the President. Adding that Hanoi's response - "could lead to another step that might lead to peace."

4/2
In a later broadcast via nationwide radio and television - the President saying "we will establish contact with representatives of North Vietnam." We are also consulting - said he - with representatives

of South Vietnam and our other allies. The President
adding ^{that} he will fly to Honolulu ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow night
to join personally in weekend talks with officials from
Saigon.

~~The beginning of the end? We all hope and pray -~~

~~that such is the case.~~

KHE SANH

~~Ironically,~~ News of the Vietnam peace overture - coming simultaneously today with news of a massive allied drive. An estimated ten thousand American and South Vietnamese - led by a column of tanks - battling their way toward beleaguered Khe Sanh. Hoping to break the back of an enemy siege - that has already lasted for months now.

Progress extremely slow - we are told; because of enemy mines and ~~mb~~ booby traps - about every hundred yards. The Viet Cong also having blown up - no less than seventeen bridges along the line of March. By dusk tonight though -- the allied force was only three miles from its goal.

WISCONSIN

Final returns from Wisconsin - if you haven't heard by now -- Senator McCarthy - the Democratic winner; capturing fifty-seven percent of the tally - as against thirty-five percent for President Johnson. Richard Nixon - the Republican winner; piling up eighty percent of the vote - with Ronald Reagan a ^{far} distant second. At the same time - the city of Madison soundly rejecting a proposed anti-war referendum.

What's it all mean; hard to say. Indeed, Senator McCarthy was already campaigning hard today - for Indiana's upcoming primary May Seventh. At South Bend - the Senator telling his supporters there will be only one Democratic presidential candidate - after that date.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW WISCONSIN

Back in Washington - President Johnson conferred separately today with Senator Robert Kennedy - ~~also~~ Vice President Hubert Humphrey ^{and} _^ The President later quoted as telling both ~~me~~ he will refrain for now - from stating his own choice for the Democratic nod.

Elsewhere in Washington though - the Vice President today received his first big push toward a possible presidential bid. A F L - C I O president George Meany - urging Humphrey to declare his candidacy now; promising the full support - of his giant Labor Federation.

INDIO

On the Republican side - at Indio, California --

~~a kind of left-handed~~^Q compliment today for Richard Nixon. Former President Eisenhower saying that his erstwhile Vice President is "a very good man, much better than a lot think." He may not have the "personal magnetism" of some candidates - Ike ~~went on~~ ^{added - he has} ~~but he~~ ~~he does have~~ "experience, a logical brain and courage."

What of recent turmoil in the Democratic Party - capped by President Johnson's decision not to run? It's a real puzzler - especially the timing -- for which ^{Former Pres. Eisenhower} ~~he~~ could offer no explanation, - ~~said he~~ Adding with a grin: "I'll just never be a politician."

FUERTH

At Fuerth, Germany - a plea of guilty today
from Private Roy Ray Jones, ¹first American deserter
to flee to Sweden -- first to return. Sentence later
set at four months ~~of~~ hard labor - forfeiture of all
pay and allowances -- and a bad conduct discharge.
This following a plea from defense Counsel -- that
Jones had twice tried to commit suicide since coming
back.

SALISBURY

Severe drought in Rhodesia. Reports from the Capital City of Salisbury -- telling today of a water shortage that has now reached "catastrophic" proportions. Calling for emergency allocation of government funds - to finance badly needed irrigation projects. This - ~~and~~ according to agriculture Minister George Rudland - "another tremendous burden in Rhodesia's battle for ~~safe~~ survival."

WEATHER

Here in the East - ~~it was~~ another beautiful day today. Bright spring sunshine - a gentle breeze - balmy temperatures.

Out West -- just the reverse. A bitter spring storm -- whipping out of the Rockies today. Barreling across the nation's mid-section -- burying the countryside under as much as fifteen inches of snow.

~~Tough on drivers that~~ ~~just~~ ~~is~~ great for spring skiing. But I wonder what happened to that early Spring in the Rockies predicted by my old hometown newspaper The Cripple Creek Gold Rush.

WASHINGTON

1/2
From Washington comes news today - of a brand new "piggy-back" railroad ~~on~~ operation; perhaps the ideal low-cost solution - to future family travel plans.

As explained by transportation Secretary Alan Boyd -- the "piggy-back" operation will permit a motorist to drive his car onto a specially-equipped train; taking with him - quote "a reasonable number of passengers." Total cost for one and all -- only one hundred bucks - for a trip, say, from Washington to Jacksonville, Florida. Including use of ^{other} train ~~board~~ facilities - such as movie theater, nursery, television car, dining ~~car~~ ^{car} and so on.

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The Seaboard Coastline railroad and Ford Motor Company ^{all} ~~set~~ set to take part in the pilot project. With ^{Warren -} first trial runs - set for some time next year.

MOSCOW

A recent sign of social progress in the Soviet Union -- general adoption of a five day work-week.

Turns out though - the changeover has created an unexpected health hazard; because doctors, too - are now taking weekends off.

Result -- according to an article published today in a Moscow newspaper; it's virtually impossible to get medical ~~treat~~ treatment -- on Saturdays and Sundays, unless you're suffering from a heart attack - a stroke - or a temperature reading ~~of~~ of a hundred plus.

While here in America many doctors ~~this is a far cry. of course, from U.S. medical~~ work night and day - almost around the clock. ~~practices. Inasmuch as doctors here normally stop~~ ~~on Wednesdays and Sundays.~~

~~Note -- suggest emphasis in last line on word WEDNESDAYS~~