

L.T. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Civil, military and political bedlam is reported today in South Vietnam; in the face of Sunday's approaching election -- first of its kind ever held in that embattled land.

The latest terrorist attack -- at Cam Tho in the Mekong Delta. A communist infiltrator hurling a bomb at a sound truck appealing for votes. Instead it landed in a crowd of children standing nearby. One killed -- seven wounded.

At the same time -- reports from the northern provinces -- tell of whole families slain by the Viet Cong, those of security agents or village leaders -- entered as candidates for the constituent assembly. While at Hue -- a hundred and eighty Buddhist monks and nuns -- were launching a mass hunger-strike in protest against the election.

LEAD--2

As for Saigon, on the outskirts of the capitol U.S jets were blasting a "terrorist camp" barely two miles from town. While in the capital itself -- a noisy election rally was in full sway; led by a raven-haired Vietnamese beauty -- and a dragon-headed youth.

Vietnamese and U.S. military police -- finally ringing the American Embassy with troops and barbed wire; as an added precaution -- against the mounting wave of Viet Cong terrorism. Not to mention -- a threatened Buddhist march on the Embassy.

MOSCOW

In Moscow - a brief announcement today; that Soviet Communist party ~~leader~~ leader Leonid Brezhnev - had conferred privately with Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi of North Viet Nam.

Kremlinologists immediately speculating - that Hanoi may be planning to switch sides; from the hard line of Peking to a policy of peaceful co-existence as practiced by Moscow. If true - a hopeful sign - of potential peace in Viet Nam.

However, the speculation quickly ^{rebuffed} ~~was~~ in London, ^{with} High diplomatic sources reporting that Red China has made it clear to North Viet Nam - that it cannot sue for peace. Red diplomats declaring that if necessary - China itself will move into North Viet Nam; to prevent what they call - ~~axx~~ a "sellout to imperialism".

And so goes the war of nerves - in the Communist world.

QUAKERS

Here at home - a Quaker organization charged today that the U S government had intercepted humanitarian gift parcels; bound for both North and South Viet Nam - via Canada. Returning them to the organization's New York office - stamped "undeliverable."

The Quakers urging President Johnson - "to review the moral basis and authority of such restrictions on humanitarian relief."

PRIVATE

Army P F C James Johnson of New York City -
found guilty today of refusing an order to go to Viet Nam.
A seven-man court martial at Fort Dix, New Jersey - setting
his sentence at five years ~~at~~ hard labor - and a dishonorable
discharge.

Private Johnson - the second G I so convicted
this week - by separate tribunals. ~~Like his buddy~~ ^{Same as} private
Dennis Mora - basing his refusal to obey the order - on
a contention that the war in Viet Nam is illegal and immoral.
But where Mora got only three years - Johnson received
the maximum ^{— five,} ~~sentence~~

Next up - Private David Samas of Modesto,
California - charged with same offense.

CAPE

At Cape Kennedy a ten-cent patch today on a twenty-five million dollar ~~it~~ Titan Rocket - and, they're ready to go again. Space engineers using a solution of sodium silicate - a fast-seal remedy you can buy at any hardware store; to plug up that pin-point leak in an oxidizer tank ~~at~~ that earlier forced cancellation of the flight of Gemini-Eleven.

With all ~~axkxka~~ else still in readiness - blast-off for the Agena target rocket - ~~promptly~~^{is} reset for eight-forty eight tomorrow morning. Gemini-Eleven to follow - at ten-thirty-five. Same times - as set for the original launch.

In the meantime - space officials emphasizing that today's flight could have gone ahead as scheduled - despite the ~~leak~~ leak. Except that the nitrogen tetroxide oxidizer escaping from the tank - was a danger to crews working on the launch pad. The oxidizer can be fatal - we're told - if ~~inkaka~~ inhaled.

SYRIA

For the second time in a week - the present Syrian government has crushed another attempted coup. Radio Damascus today reporting recapture - of the rebel stronghold at nearby Harasta Garrison. Asserting that two hundred civilian and military ~~plot~~ plotters - have been thrown into jail. Syrian Premier Youssef Zayen adding personally - that leaders of the attempted coup will be "liquidated, forever" *as he put it.*

Chief of these - said to be Colonel Salim Hatoum; one of the leaders of the ~~the~~ successful coup earlier this year - ~~that~~ brought the present leftist regime to power. Hatoum bitterly opposed - they say - to the government's increasing ties with the Soviet Union.

TANKS

A glimpse into Soviet military thinking - in this next from Moscow. General Nikolai Constantinóv of the Russian Army - today declaring ^{that} Soviet tanks ^{are} the most modern, the most effective land ~~weapons~~ weapons in the world.

According to the General - Soviet tanks can fight in any type of terrain; from autumn slush - to desert sands - to polar snow. What's more - said he "they can deliver powerful, surprise blows to the enemy - even in an ~~area~~ area of an atomic explosion." This because their armor supposedly resists not only the effects of nuclear weapons - but also bacteriological and chemical warfare.

General Constantinóv concluding that short of rockets - nothing can beat a Soviet tank.

DR. GORDON - RIVER KWAI

Whenever I take off on a long flight I carry a small bag of books; and, sometimes return with most of them unread - and all that extra weight! On my latest across the Atlantic I did ~~not~~ read a book - read it non-stop, one I wish you all would read. It's the true story of what happened during the war, on the River Kwai, in Southeast Asia. If you saw the film you will find this book even *more interesting - intensely gripping,*
~~more~~ The title - **THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE KWAI** by Ernest Gordon, a Colonel in a famous Scottish regiment, *Now Dr. Ernest Gordon of Princeton Univ,* The Argyle and Sutherlands. [^] Written and published after the film was made; telling the true story of what actually did happen at the building of the bridge over the River Kwai. If you read Dr. Gordon's book you will never forget it.

SAFETY

At the White House - President Johnson today signed into law -- the new auto and highway safety bill. Then Putting the legislation ^{en force} ~~to take effect~~ immediately - with the appointment of Dr. William J. Haddon - as administrator of the new National Traffic Safety Agency.

Dr. Haddon's job - said the President - to work with the automobile industry; to establish what he called - "reasonable and realistic safety standards." Such standards to take effect - in the Nineteen Sixty-Eight model year.

DETROIT FOLLOW SAFETY

Meanwhile, at Detroit - above ~~the~~ and beyond the new safety bill - ^{they say a} ~~great~~ ^{is on} debate in the auto industry; on how best to protect auto passengers from serious or fatal injury - in the event of high speed, head-on collisions.

On the one hand - ^{one} ~~a~~ group of automotive engineering experts ~~who~~ believe the answer lies in providing crushable front and rear ends in cars. In effect - safety pads - to protect and shield the passenger compartment. To prove the point that it can be done - they've successfully dropped an egg ten ~~xxx~~ stories - into a specially constructed pad just two inches thick - and nary a crack.

On the other hand - second group of industry experts ~~who~~ believe that the present "crushability" of front and rear ends - is more than ample ^{and} that the major burden of safety engineering - should be directed at keeping the passenger from bouncing around at point of impact. With regard to the ~~fox~~ egg experiment - one of the latter group remarking; "sure, the ~~egg~~ egg survived - but if there

had been a baby chick inside - it would have ~~had~~ been killed.

*And so the debate continues - with the likely
result a compromise; combining the best -of both groups.
In which case, the motoring public - you and I - will be
the real winners.*

QUAKE

For weeks, there have been scientific rumblings from Southern California - about the possibility of another major earthquake. According to members of the American Geophysical Union - a quake that could come any day now.

Be that as it may - a message of reassurance today - from the world's most famous and most successful amateur weatherman. Seventy-two year old Louis Rubin - retired electrical contractor of Richmond, Virginia - telling Californians to "quit worrying - at least for the time being."

Louis Rubin - ^{they say} ~~in case you haven't heard~~ ^{the} ~~man who~~ predicted that ^{terrible} recent ~~earthquake~~ Turkish earthquake - a month before it hit. Who in ~~add~~ addition, accurately predicted the two tremors - that rocked South America in the last week. ~~For all his coffers in the world of science.~~

Rubin's predictions - ~~based~~ based on a theory that links sunspots, volcanoes, ~~earthquake~~ earthquakes

and cold fronts - in a predictable cycle of events. The cycle - for the moment, at least - skipping California - said he.

Rubin warning, however, that there could be a volcanic eruption - along the coast of Central America.

If that happens - said he - "then in about thirty or ninety days - California - watch out!" - so they say Warren - and s-l-u-t-men.