

Thurs. Mar. 21 - '68.

On the political front - a dramatic "non-happening" today in New York City. Astounding ^{some of} the experts -- Governor Rockefeller declaring himself out -- "unequivocally" - as a possible contender for the Republican nomination for President.

1/2
The Governor admitting "quite frankly" - as he put it -- "that the majority of party leaders want the candidacy of Richard Nixon at this time." "It would, therefore, be illogical and unreasonable" - he went on -- to "try to arouse their support" - for his own candidacy.

Rockefeller further asserting that the Democratic Party has been "torn asunder" - by so-called "personal combat". Adding that he himself has no intention - of inflicting similar damage on the Republican Party.

And so - another surprising turn in campaign ^{at the moment} sixty-eight -- leaving Richard Nixon ^{at the moment} virtually unopposed - in his second try for the Republican nod.

VIETNAM

From the Far East - news today of five new operations through wide areas of South Vietnam. The U S and allied counterpunch - claiming nearly eight hundred enemy lives -- according to last report.

In the air war - U S planes blasting away at North Vietnam's Phuc Yen air base near Hanoi. With the weather lifting / U S pilots also spotting and destroying more than a hundred heavy supply trucks. This a big assist -- we are told - in easing pressure on Khe Sanh.

Meanwhile, in Saigon - President Thieu was setting a draft quota for this year - ~~totaling~~^{of} one hundred and thirty-five thousand men. The goal to be met - by calling up eighteen and nineteen year olds; also recalling veterans under thirty-three -- with less than five years of previous service.

MIDDLE EAST

48

On the firing line in the Middle East - late word today of an Israeli pullback; following ~~the~~^a punitive expedition -- against Arab terrorist ~~base~~ bases in Jordan. At Jerusalem - an Israeli spokesman saying: "All targets have been attained." Adding that all Israeli forces had returned - or were "in the process of returning home."

Behind them - the Israelis leaving a number of shattered Arab camps. Also an estimated hundred and fifty Arab dead - all of them said to be El-Fatah Terrorist saboteurs *probably from Syria.*

Mean~~ing~~^{while}, in New York - the U N Security council was called into urgent session today. Jordan quickly demanding U N sanctions against Israel - branding the Israeli action a "vicious and premeditated attack."

STOCKHOLM

More on the war from Stockholm - where the Swedish government today presented its annual foreign policy statement, placing the blame squarely on the United States - for failure to stop the fighting in Vietnam. Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson saying: "The United States can only hold out the prospect of a war prolonged for years and years which must entail additional sacrifice of human lives."

49
Perhaps equally significant - the report failed to criticize either Hanoi or the Viet Cong. Swedish Premier Tage Erlander also refusing to dismiss from his cabinet -- a minister - who took part in a recent anti-American demonstration. All this - prompting an opposition charge to the effect that "international ~~consequence~~ ^{confid}ence" in Sweden's traditional neutrality - has now been "badly damaged."

WASHINGTON

~~Here at home~~ President Johnson paid special
tribute today - to the ~~great~~ ^{the} courage of Vietnamese
civilians in the face of Communist attacks throughout
their country -- especially during the ~~last~~ recent ^{Viet Cong} Tet
offensive.

"There were heroes by the hundreds" - who
fought the enemy with anything they could lay their
hands on - said L B J. Adding: "Their will did not
break under that fire -- and neither will our will break
under frustration."

SOVIET ARMENIA

An old familiar name - back in the news today. Probably for the last time. That of -- Gerhard Eisler.

Remember - the fugitive from American justice -- who later became the propaganda chief for Communist East Germany? Well it's all over now. Gerhard Eisler passing away suddenly today - while visiting Soviet Armenia. He was seventy-one.

CORREGIDOR FOLLOW SOVIET ARMENIA

~~Halfway round the globe~~ ^{Here} an old familiar
name - ^{A bitter memory -}
place -- back in the news today. With the Philippine
government admitting the existence of a secret military
training camp - on the World War Two island fortress
of Corregidor. The government admission following a
reported mutiny at the base - resulting in the death
of several recruits.

Purpose of the installation - still an official
secret. However, the Manila Times calling it -- a
special school for infiltrators and saboteurs. These
supposedly for possible use - against - quote a neighboring
country" - says the ^{Manila} Times.

BIDDEFORD

This next - from Biddeford, Maine, About
a newly-formed group called - the Boat Club of St.
Francis College. Elected officers including a commodore
-- a Vice Commodore - a Rear Commodore - a Captain
of the Yard and so on. ^{These} Assigned the task of directing
meetings ^{where they'll run} ~~which will consist~~ of boating movies.

~~Only one slight drawback. The~~ ^{sh} fact ~~that~~ the
club ~~is~~ does not have a single boat of its own. ~~This~~
^{boat club} ~~members~~ - "up the creek" -- ^{would you say, Warren - even a} ~~so to speak~~ - without ~~a~~ ^{xxx}
canoe!

PAYALLUP VALLEY

On this the first full day of spring - beautiful bouquets of daffodils are blooming today - on the desks of governors, mayors and civil leaders throughout the land, ^{— even some on mine.} A reminder from the Puyallup Valley in Washington -- fabled "birthplace of spring" - a reminder that the ~~same~~ Puyallup Valley daffodil festival - is soon to burst into full bloom for the thirty-fifth straight year.

This year's event featuring: A ski tournament - a Marine regatta - ~~an~~ a horse show - drag races - barbecues; ^{plus} ~~also~~ some three to four hundred ~~of~~ different kinds of daffodils. The Puyallup Valley saying "goodbye winter - hello spring."