

WASHINGTON

Wed. May 26 - 71.

Washington again - another Presidential first; with President Nixon becoming the first Chief Executive - ever to address a meeting of the Associated Council of Arts. Taking this ~~the~~ opportunity to call anew - for a sixty million appropriation for the arts and humanities - "to enrich the quality of life throughout America." The President saying: "Engineers and scientists can take us to the moon - but we need the poet and the painter to take us to the heights of understanding and perception; we need the musicians and the dancer and the film maker - to bring beauty and meaning to our lives."

ECONOMY

On the economic front - another increase in the nation's composite index of business statistics; one point four percent for the month of April - which makes the sixth straight month of steady climb.

According to government experts - proof positive - that "a solid and substantial economic expansion is under way." And ~~that's it~~ ^{that's it} ~~they do and once more - it's~~ becoming "quite strong."

VIETNAM

*In Vietnam - a surprise find today up near the
D M Z; with a force of South Vietnamese troops -
over-running a suspected enemy base ~~to~~ camp; there
discovering an arms cache - containing, among other
things, ninety-eight heavy rockets. And these - we are
told - of a kind never before seen in Vietnam; about
twice as big ~~as~~ as the enemy's standard one-twenty-two;
with a range - ~~estimated at twenty miles. Instead,~~
a potent weapon.*

YUBA CITY

Here at home - the ~~body~~ count in that make-~~up~~
shift cemetery at Yuba City, California - twelve, at
last report, and ~~where~~ they^{re} still digging. Police
saying the victims = were, probably, all migrant farm
workers - and the man they^{re} holding as the alleged
killer - thirty seven year old Juan V. Corona, a farm
labor contractor. As for the motives? ~~though - not~~
So far this
seems to be a mystery,
~~we'll just have to wait and see.~~

DETROIT

Remember a month ago how a Detroit grocer killed a would-be bandit who later was identified as Dwight Johnson - age twenty three - a former altar boy, an Explorer Scout - and then a Sergeant in the U S Army? In Vietnam he had won the nation's highest award for valor - the Congressional Medal of Honor - when, in the words of one of his buddies, "he took on" and practically wiped out "a whole battalion of North Vietnamese."

Dwight Johnson returning home a hero - and he was so acclaimed by former President Johnson; ~~after~~ after which a testimonial dinner ~~back~~ ^{to the skies} in Washington where he was praised _^ by General Westmoreland. Then, he was Dwight Johnson man of the hour; but ^{that} ~~an~~ hour ~~that~~ ended all too soon. Once he was a civilian again, ~~the~~ bills began piling up - his house about to be foreclosed - his wife in need of a serious operation. ^{Now} Where were his friends? So, he started out with a gun - and died.

There are some ~~of us~~ who believe the President might appoint ~~should support~~ some dollar-a-year man, say a Clement Stone of Chicago, or a Ross Perot of Dallas, to keep an eye on those to whom we give the Medal of Honor. So often we build them up, ~~make~~ make a big fuss over them, ~~and~~ then, let them down. Surely something ~~that should~~ ^{to} be studied. Today the great New York Times devoted a full page to this Dwight Johnson tragedy.

BELFAST

Speaking of heroes - this next from Belfast in Northern Ireland; where a group of young children were ~~h~~^herded into a police station - for safety's sake - during another brief flare-up of religious violence. And then a homemade bomb was hurled in - landing in the midst of the youngsters; whereupon a British paratrooper leaped forward - absorbing the full force of the blast. Army Sergeant Michael Willets - killed instantly.

Who threw the ~~as for the~~ [?] ~~bomb~~ - witnesses ~~later~~ ~~saying~~ ~~he~~

~~was "just a wee fellow". Adding: "he looked like a schoolboy."~~

MITTENWALD

At Wittenwald, West Germany a meeting of Nato Defense Ministers; from whence we hear that exploratory talks will begin soon - to determine whether the Russians are really serious about negotiating a mutual troop cut back. U S Defense Secretary Melvin Laird stressing, however, that "all nato partners must maintain their strength - until such negotiations have reached some agreement" ~~if and when~~ if and when.

TABLE MOUNTAIN

From the skies high over Table Mountain - near
Capetown, South Africa - comes the story of a three plane
mid-air crash. This ^{during} ~~coming in the midst of~~ a practice
formation flight - killing at least eleven. ~~Perhaps~~
~~noteworthy, these same three planes - generally used as~~
~~transports for South Africa's high ranking defense officers.~~

VATICAN

From the Vatican Weekly - "L'Osservatore Della Domenica" - a warning today to Roman Catholic priests; a warning to avoid cultivating, ~~Quote~~, "sentimental relationships" with women - however platonic these may seem. Why so? Because - says the Vatican - there is a "certain risk" inherent in any relationship with a woman; even one that's cloaked "in vaporous spirituality - and good intentions." Which, by the way, the road to Hell is paved with -- or so we are told.

The Vatican Weekly also calls it a scandal - that one-time church objects are now being used to decorate many private homes, as in the case of the wife of an Italian government official - who recently installed a pulpit in her living room. ^{Whereupon} ~~But then~~ a priest came to call - we are told, saw the pulpit - mounted it - and promptly rendered "a sermon about sacrilege."

How's that Bill Martin?

SYDNEY

Sydney, Australia - a crowded Quantas airliner - taking off for Hong Kong: In came a phone call saying "there's a bomb aboard" - and telling them it would go off - if they try to land. To make a long story short - Quantas finally paying out more than half a million in cash; only to discover, in the end, that there was no bomb at all.

And now- a postscript. When the plane was back down again - after seven hours of tense ~~and~~ circling, passengers and crew admitting, sure, they were scared. But there is almost sure to be another chapter to this story. Criminals seldom escape in Australia. I know this first hand. It's not easy to hide Down Under - even though it's a continent much of which is empty. But, in Australia they get their man.