

L.T. - BUICK, FISHER. FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1966

(Dallas Townsend substituting)

VIET NAM

A U.S. spokesman in Saigon -- today reported the biggest air strike yet -- against Communist North Viet Nam.

On the ground -- the Viet Cong all but wiping out a Marine patrol of fourteen men -- near Da Nang. But paying for it -- with the loss of close to Two Hundred men of their own. Most of them victims of an American air strike -- with flaming napalm bombs.

PLANE

The Peking propaganda machine working full blast today; in the wake of Communist charges -- that U.S. planes deliberately invaded Red Chinese air space; and shot down -- a Chinese Mig-Seventeen.

Peking calling the alleged attack -- "an act of war provocation." Urging the Chinese Army -- to make "the most effective preparations for war." Adding that Chinese hatred of the United States -- is deeper than the sea; and that America's "blood debt" to China -- is more massive than a mountain.

In Washington, however, the threats taken with a grain of salt. White House News Secretary Bill Moyers saying he would be surprised -- if the alleged incident and any effect -- on the current review of U.S. policy in Viet Nam.

In any case, who denied the Chinese accusations, we do report shooting down a MIG 17 over North Vietnam -- not China.

RENTS

At the White House -- President Johnson today put the final touch -- to a piece of highly controversial legislation; signing into law -- a Two-point-Eight-Billion-dollar money bill; that includes Twelve Million dollars -- to start up the Administration's disputed rent subsidy program. The President declaring that every man's house cannot be a castle -- but "it need not be a hovel."

The bill also provides Nine-and-a-Half Million dollars -- for the establishment of a National Teacher Corps; to provide better teaching facilities -- for the children of poor families

The President noting, however, that this is enough to finance the teacher corps -- only through the current fiscal year. Urging the House to reconsider -- its recent rejection of additional funds. "I hope" -- said he -- "that Congress, which has already done so much for so many, will do just a little more -- and give the teacher corps a chance to help others."

SEAMEN

In London -- British Prime Minister Harold Wilson today made a personal eleventh-hour appeal -- to head off a threatened seamen's strike. Meeting with the union's Forty-Eighty-member executive board --over beer and sandwiches -- at Number Ten Downing Street.

Wilson argued that a seamen's strike -- would be tantamount to cutting Britain's economic lifeline. Calling for continued negotiation -- in hopes of achieving a compromise.

Nevertheless, the union leaders later met privately -- and rejected the request for further delay. The strike deadline set for midnight Sunday -- said a union official -- barring a "fresh offer."

PARIS FOLLOW SEAMEN

Across the Channel -- in Paris -- President DeGaulle was accused today -- of unwittingly sabotaging chances for a meaningful East-West disarmament agreement. The charge -- by British Disarmament Minister Lord Chalfont. Based on the French decision -- to withdraw from NATO.

Lord Chalfont asserting that "anything which weakens NATO -- at the same time weakens the chances of meaningful disarmament." This -- said he -- "because the Russians are only interested in negotiating with people -- who have a basis for strength."

LEAD TO TAPE

Lowell Thomas is still in Europe tonight -- but he has given us another special report -- this one a sidelight on the Saga of Man.

Thank you, Lowell.

ECONOMY

The President's top business advisers -- in session today at Hot Springs, Virginia -- to take the pulse of the nation's economy. The diagnosis later rendered -- by Chairman Gardner Ackley of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

The nation's economy -- said Ackley -- is "less boomy" than a few months ago; apparently ruling out -- the need for an immediate tax increase. Ackley adding, however, that the threat of inflation -- is still the nation's biggest economic worry.

BELGIUM

(Speaking of inflation) -- this next from Brussels. News today of a final settlement -- between Belgian doctors and government health officials; calling for a so-called "whopping" increase in medical fees -- to head off a threatened doctors' strike.

Under the new ~~gaxer~~⁹ agreement -- the price of an office call goes up from a dollar-twenty-six -- to a dollar-forty-eight. And the price of a visit from a specialist -- from two-forty-eight -- to two-eighty-four.

It may be inflation, Warren, but it still sounds like a bargain.

PACKAGING

After five years of delay -- the Senate Commerce Committee today finally approved at last -- a "truth in packaging bill." Designed to eliminate phony phrases and phony measures -- from the labels of kitchen and bathroom products.

If finally approved by the full Congress -- as expected -- the bill would require standard labels on all products. Eliminating the guesswork -- as to actual quantity. Banning come-ons -- such as "so many cents off on this package." And establishing a uniform scale -- to determine whether a product is really "small", "giant" or "economy" size.

The following comment -- from Senator Hart of Michigan -- who originally introduced the bill. Said he: "In the never-never land where one^y man is king -- no, it's not a good bill. But from an over-all viewpoint -- it's a fine bill."

~~BattixTownsendx says x Good x night.~~

RIFT

Rumors persist today -- of a serious rift in the East European Communist bloc. The rumors blossoming anew amid a report from Peking -- of high-level talks between Romanian and Red Chinese officials.

According to Radio Bucharest -- the Romanians were met by Red Chinese Premier Chou-En-Lai, among others; in what was described as -- a "comradely and friendly atmosphere." This during a brief stopover by the Romanians at Peking -- following week-long talks with the Communist North Vietnamese.

News today from Moscow -- that Soviet Communist Party Leader Leonid Brezhnev -- has ~~x~~ returned from his top-secret trip to Bucharest. However, the purpose of the trip -- and results, if any -- remain a Kremlin secret. Moscow giving no details at all about what happened in Bucharest⁹ -- mentioning it officiall for the first time.

EGYPT FOLLOW RIFT

As for Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin -- he's still on tour in Egypt; / his trip apparently the spark -- for a stepped-up anti-American campaign -- in the land of the Nile.

The latest and bitterest attack to date -- an article today in the Cairo newspaper Al Ahram -- which generally reflects official policy. / The newspaper asserting that political and economic cooperation -- between the United States and the United Arab Republic -- is totally impossible. This -- said the article -- because the United States "wants agents -- not friends."

The U. S. also accused of attempting to establish King Faisal of Saudi Arabia / - as a so-called "pope" of Islam. According to Al Ahram / another American policy -- "of force and blind pressure."