

FLOODS

L.T. - Ruick, Fisher. Wed. Apr. 14 - 65.

The worst flood in the history of the Upper Mississippi River -- raged through the lowlands of Minnesota today. St. Paul again the hardest hit -- with another dozen industries in the bottom section of that city -- forced to evacuate their plants.

The flood wall in front of the factories -- still intact -- but leaking badly because of the extreme pressure. Inside the plants -- water rising from the ground faster than workers could pump it out.

In all -- forty-five of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties -- designated part of a "major disaster" area -- and thus eligible for Federal aid. The brunt of a sudden spring thaw -- spilling over into parts of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Montana. With more than thirty-one thousand persons already homeless - and damage running into the tens of millions.

PRESIDENT FOLLOW FLOODS

~~Meanwhile~~ President Johnson ^{today} followed the

path of destruction -- in a first-hand tour of the tornado and flood-stricken Midwest.

At Elkhart, Indiana -- the President murmuring "awful -- awful" -- as he surveyed the wreckage left by that devastating Palm-Sunday tornado. At St. Paul -- pledging that the Federal Government will do all it can -- "as promptly, as efficiently and as usefully as possible -- to render maximum assistance".

At his last stop -- ~~in~~ Toledo, Ohio -- the President deeply moved by the bleak faces of the homeless -- as rescue workers still searched the debris for missing bodies. ~~The Chief Executive was accompanied by...~~

~~...~~

Pres.
Mr. Johnson later voicing the hope that his

visit -- would convey to the storm and flood victims -- "the concern, compassion and support of their countrymen in this hour of shock and trial".

PITTSFIELD FOLLOW PRESIDENT

In tornado-torn Pittsfield, Ohio -- the first building to rise from the rubble today -- was an inflated plastic church. This the gift of an anonymous Jewish businessman -- who lives in a neighboring town. The Good Samaritan commenting: "I know what Easter means to those of the Christian faith. I want the people of Pittsfield to have a place to worship".

PLANE

A British United Airways DC-Three -- crashed
and burst into flames tonight on the Isle of Jersey -- in
the English Channel. The plane -- on a flight from
Paris to Jersey. Attempting a landing in dense fog --
when it smashed into a clump of trees. ~~Twenty-six~~
~~persons aboard the plane were killed and~~ First reports
indicating -- at least twenty-five dead.

HOUSE

In Washington, the House today overwhelmingly approved -- a special fifty-thousand-dollar appropriation for the House Committee on the Un-American Activities. The money to be used to finance an investigation of the Ku Klux Klan. There were only scattered objections to the inquiry -- with the final tally -- three hundred and twelve to forty-three -- in favor of the Klan probe. Staff investigations already under way -- the hearings to begin this summer.

WILSON

At the United Nations -- British Prime Minister Harold Wilson -- today met privately with U.N. Secretary General U Thant. The subject -- Viet Nam. Details of the conversation -- not revealed. However, Wilson later voicing his fullest support of President Johnson's stand on Viet Nam. Asserting that the American offer to negotiate -- without prior conditions -- could well break the "vicious circle" -- as he put it -- that has so prolonged the Vietnamese war.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam -- a military court deliberated five minutes today -- then sentenced a Communist terrorist to death. The man -- Le Dau -- described as the leader of a Communist Viet Cong suicide squad. Seized when he tried to hurl a plastic bomb into a hotel at Da Nang -- the hotel filled with U.S. servicemen.

To the North -- for the first time in the Vietnamese war -- U.S. warplanes today bombarded Communist towns and villages -- ~~not~~ not with bombs but with propaganda leaflets. Three million of them -- stating the case more or less in these words: "We love peace. But if Communist aggression persists -- our air raids will continue on a wider scale".

KREMLIN

Meanwhile From London ~~today~~ -- a report/^{today} that the split between Russia and Red China - has widened sharply in the last few days. With Communist North Viet Nam -- the chief bone of contention.

The report is
~~Kremlinologists asserting~~ that the two great Communist powers -- have now become "almost hostile" toward each other. The Red Chinese publicly chiding Russia -- for not doing more to help the North Vietnamese war effort, *But* said to be privately furious -- at Russia's increasing influence in Viet Nam. This influence seen as a threat not only to the Chinese brand of Communism -- but also to the security of China itself.

As a result -- Russian planes permitted to fly only specified routes across Red China -- to reach Viet Nam. And these flights allowed only at night -- presumably *to* prevent Russian "spying".

Hanoi said to be trying to walk a tightrope --

**between the two great powers. But the footing - more
and more difficult. The whole situation - still another
stumbling block to peace - in that corner of the world.**

PENNY

Police of Springfield, Massachusetts -- are on the lookout today for a dapper young man -- who stole a penny. No ordinary penny this -- but a nineteen-oh-nine Lincoln penny -- bearing the San Francisco mint mark -- along with the engraver's initials. Worth at least two hundred dollars.

The owner of a Springfield coin shop -- reporting that the young man asked to see the coin -- presumably with the intention of buying it. Indeed, he examined the coin for fifteen minutes -- before making his decision. Then he said simply - "I'll take it".

And he did - dashing right out the front door, *Dick*

CRANES

From Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge --

*news today that the world's last flock of whooping cranes -
has already begun its annual summer migration. Eleven
adult birds and two of their young -- heading out across
Texas -- then on toward the wildest reaches of Canada.
The flight to their summer nesting grounds at Canada's
Great Slave Lake -- a distance of more than two
thousand, five hundred miles. The rest of the whoopers -
twenty-nine in all -- expected to follow shortly.*

WILSON

SECRET

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson -- today met with President Johnson at the White House. Wilson later fully endorsing the American strategy in Viet Nam.

The President's recent speech -- said Wilson -- "answered the doubts of a lot of people all over the world".

The Briton ^{WZL} then asked if his endorsement of American policy -- might foreshadow a British military

commitment to Viet Nam. However, that possibility ^{WZL} quickly ruled ^{out.}

Wilson noted that British troops are already "quite fully committed" -- to peace-keeping missions in Malaysia and the Middle East.

Wilson noted that Chinese border guards carefully obliterating all markings -- that designate the supplies as -- "made in Russia". When they reach North Viet Nam -- the Soviet goods arrive marked -- "made in China."