

PRESIDENT

L.T. - Buick, Fisher. Wed. Feb. 23 - 66

President Johnson ~~a scheduled visitor~~
tonight in New York; ~~there~~ to receive the annual
Freedom Award - of Freedom House. Also to reply
to recent criticism ~~in~~ of American policy in Viet Nam.

The President expected to say that there
will no "mindless escalation" of the war - into a
major conflict with Red China. He's expected to add
however, that America's obligation in Viet Nam - will
" be met".

VIETNAM

American forces tangled with hard-core Viet Cong troops today in two battles -- barely sixty miles apart.

The first -- north of Bong Son, where two companies of battle hardened Viet Cong decided to stand up and slug it out with U.S. Marines. A fatal mistake. The guerrillas losing about fifty men -- before they broke and fled.

The ^{second} ~~second~~ battle -- south of Bong Son; where U.S. Air Cavalrymen ran into enemy resistance while pursuing others they had driven early this week from a jungle hide-out. The opposing forces still reported -- heavily engaged" at nightfall.

DEBATE

47
At the same time - pressure began to build today in the Senate - for a quick vote of confidence on American policy in Viet Nam. Both Democratic and Republican leaders urging speedy approval of the President's four point eight billion dollar military authorization bill, ~~To~~ provide money ~~vital~~ needed - to meet the costs of war.

Senator Dirksen, for one , asserting the time for debate has passed - "the time for action is here and now". Senator Long, for another, predicting passage of the measure - no later than tomorrow with five dissenting votes at most - said he.

NURSES

Also, an announcement today from the Defense Department that the government will soon make its first call -- for a draft of male nurses. The call-up designed to meet a shortage of Army and Navy nurses -- arising from the war in Viet Nam. Decision to fill the gap with men -- based on the fact that the government as yet ~~a~~ has no authority -- to draft women.

DEFENSE

A two hundred page public report of top secret testimony by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara was made public today in Washington. A condensed version of his annual report to the Senate Armed services committee.

In it - ^{Sec.} McNamara contended ^S that a Red victory in Viet Nam - would set loose a Chinese attempt at Revolution throughout "all ^{of} the under-developed world." ^{Sec.} McNamara asserting further - that ^{Peking} ~~the Reds~~ has already picked Thailand - "as its next victim," And has already laid the ground work - for an alleged "war of national liberation " in that country.

Red China's long term goal - said McNamara - is to become the dominant force in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Viet Nam, ^{he considers, is} ~~therefore, clearly~~ the test case in China's master plan, - ~~said he.~~

McNAMARA

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill - veteran Democratic Senator Pat McNamara of Michigan - today announced that he will retire from public office at the end of this year. The seventy-one year~~old~~ McNamara who is just completing his second term - giving age ~~for~~^{as} the reason for his decision. Although now in good health he said he feared he might be unable to do full justice to his ^{heavy} Senate responsibilities through another six year term.

The result likely to be a bruising Democratic primary in Michigan, ~~with~~ former Michigan Governor G Mennen Williams - who is now Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs - and Mayor Jerry Cavanaugh of Detroit - both expected to declare ^{that} for McNamara's Senate seat.

SYRIA

Once more, revolution followed quickly by counter-revolution today -- in the Middle East. Extremists in Syria's ruling Baath Party -- seizing power in a pre-dawn coup. Quickly capturing the seat of government at Damascus along with President Amin Hafez and Premier Salah Bitar; only to run into fierce army resistance -- within a matter of hours.

The attempted coup -- Syria's twelfth since Nineteen Forty Nine; apparently led by Major General Salah Hedid -- a Baath extremist who was purged from the party last December. It was started -- we are told -- over a recent proclamation by President Hafez; considered by many -- a bid to return to better relations with Egypt's Nasser.

Tonight the outcome of the coup seems to be in doubt. In themeantime -- all Syrian seaports, airports, and borders are closed. The country's only contact with the world -- through Radio Damascus.

INDONESIA

The man who was once commander of Sukarno's Palace Guard ~~want~~ on trial for his life today in Jakarta.

Lieutenant Colonel Untung charged with treason and armed rebellion -- in that attempted Indonesia coup of last October.

Meanwhile, renewed violence today -- at the Palace; with Sukarno forced to call in troops -- to put down another student anti-Communist demonstration.

According to an Australian newsman at the scene -- the riot claiming the lives of at least two and possibly as many as five students.

CLEAN

A far-reaching federal program to cleanse America's rivers and streams - was proposed today by President Johnson in still another special message to Congress. The program to begin with a so-called "Clean Rivers Demonstration Program" - ^{starting} with a modest initial budget of Fifty Million Dollars. Ultimate goal - said the President - ~~to~~ "to clean and preserve entire river basins - from their sources to their mouths."

7.
1 1/2 { The President also reporting - that he will soon launch a similar clean air program. Designed - said he "to ~~imprx~~ improve and increase federal research - ^{with} financing and technical assistance - to help state and local governments take the measures needed to control air pollution.

TICKETS

From San Antonio, Texas -- the story today of a traffic violation -- plus some aggravation. A local patrolman reporting that he stopped a woman to give her a traffic ticket, only to have her tear up the summons and bite him on the cheek -- as she fled into her home nearby.

Did the policeman turn the other cheek? Not on your life. He wrote out a new ticket -- and delivered it personally -- along with a warrant for the woman's arrest. The charge -- this time -- aggravated assault.

When a lady bites you on the cheek -- is that -- well -- what does it mean, Warren?

DISCRIMINATION

~~A charge of discrimination in reverse~~

There was
~~led to~~ an all-male walk-out today at New Concord,
Ohio. A direct result of recent federal legislation
guaranteeing equal job opportunities to women.

The men strikers protesting that women
~~since~~ have been given the best jobs in a local general
Electric plant - merely to comply with the new law.
Jobs which in reality, they couldn't handle - said
the men. Company policy thus branded by the union
-- a clear case of discrimination against men.