

PENTAGON

Fri. Feb. ~~23~~ - '68
23rd

With the cost of war rising daily - U S manpower needs are also going up. The Pentagon today issuing its second highest draft call - since the start of U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Setting a quota of forty-eight thousand men - for induction into the armed forces during April. Including some four thousand recruits - who will become the first Marine inductees in two years. At the same time - the Pentagon also raising its previously announced March call; from thirty-nine thousand - to a new total of forty-one thousand.

Reason for the increased demand - due, in part, to those big draft calls of two years ago. Many of the men inducted then - just now completing their allotted two years of service. Obviously though - the draft build-up also reflecting increased pressure in Vietnam; especially among Marine units fighting at Hue - also manning those besieged outposts at Khe Sanh and Con Thien.

6 1/2

TEXAS WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW PENTAGON

Meanwhile, reports persisted today - that a call-up of reserves is perhaps next in the cards. Indeed, Washington sources ^{are} quoted as saying that the Joint Chiefs of Staff ~~are~~ have already recommended mobilization of nearly ~~fifty~~ fifty thousand reservists and national guardsmen. These same sources further indicating - that President Johnson would probably rule in the matter "within the next few days."

Be that as it may - the Texas White House today ~~insists~~ ^s insists there has been, as yet, no formal request for mobilization of reserves. Press Secretary George Christian adding, what's more, that "certainly no decision has been reached" - on any possible new troop requirements for Vietnam.

HUE FOLLOWS TEXAS WHITE HOUSE

~~Halfway around the world~~ - In Vietnam - a sudden lull in fighting today at Hue. Less than a hundred yards from victory - U S marines forced to hold their fire pending a decision from Saigon.

The tie-up in the fact that the last Red Stronghold - is located in one of Vietnam's most sacred monuments; the two hundred year old imperial palace at Hue. The question ~~then~~ whether to shell and bomb the ~~up~~ palace - thus risking the ~~xx~~ destruction of priceless, irreplaceable treasures; or whether to launch a final assault without prior softening up - at the cost perhaps of additional lives.

ATLANTA

On the Democratic side - a regional conference today in Atlanta, with national chairman John Bailey - front and center; asserting that party members who oppose U S policy in Vietnam - are what he called "one issue Democrats" destined to return to the fold sooner or later - to support a Johnson-Humphrey ticket in November. If anything - Bailey added - the Vietnam war, in the end, will likely cement party unity.

MOSCOW

Celebration in Moscow - fiftieth anniversary of the Red Army. Marked today by a cheer for Josef Stalin - plus a claim to chief credit for allied victory in World War Two; over Germany - ~~also~~ ^{over} Japan. Soviet officials saying their one-week war against the Japanese - had brought V-J Day "considerably ~~to~~ nearer."

Turning to the future - Defense Minister Marshal Grechko warning that the United States is "not a paper tiger" - as claimed by Peking. Adding, however, that Russian armed forces - can defeat any "imperialist aggression; with or without nuclear weapons" - said he.

HURST

~~Elsewhere~~ In New York - the end today for one of
the world's most famous, ~~most honored~~ women. Fabled
Fannie Hurst - victim of a brief illness; after more
than half a century in the literary limelight - as best-
selling author, playwright, television star and prime
mover in countless worthy causes, a woman of great
charm.

Only a few weeks ago - Fannie Hurst completing
work on her final two novels - now ~~dead~~ ^{passes on} at seventy-eight.

NEW YORK

Next up - the question: What is it - really - that old people want out of life? To find out - the federal office of economic opportunity polling hundreds of New York's senior citizens.

Answer³ including: ~~Someone~~ to talk to - better police protection - little clubs for older ~~fk~~ folks who are lonely - someone to go to the store for you when you're sick; but most of all - someone who really cares what happens to you.

Or as one government spokesman summed it up: "Everybody talks about training youth for tomorrow - but there should be more thought for the old - because their tomorrow is today."

LOUISVILLE

Confirmation

At Louisville, Kentucky - official ~~confirmation~~
today' ~~of widespread rumors,~~ *with* Senator Thruston
Morton of the Blue Grass State announcing formally -
that he will not be a candidate for re-election this
year.

Only sixty years old - and generally rated
chief spokesman for Republican moderates in the Senate-
Morton had been expected to score an easy ~~win~~ victory
in November. He is pulling out though - "for very
compelling personal reasons" -- said he. Adding:
"To use an old Kentucky expression - I suppose I am
just plain 'track sore'." *His friends say -*
It's a matter of health.

WALL STREET

Here's one: A woman looks at Wall Street.

7/2
The woman - ~~not~~ in this case - a bona fide financial expert; thirty-eight year old Muriel Siebert - who recently became the first woman ever to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange; at a cost of a cool half million - I might add.

Anyway - Miss Siebert ~~says~~ ^{says} that cooperation - is the first rule of the financial community; an attitude of live and let live ~~that applies~~ ^{that applies} equally to men and women brokers. This epitomized by the saying in Wall Street - that "bulls make money - bears make money -- but pigs ~~don't~~ don't."

10
As for the rest of us - who sometimes act like sheep - ^{do} we just get sheared? ^{Warren?} ~~it seems~~

MANHATTAN

From New York City - the case today of the unluckiest bandit in the world. A young man who pushed to the head of the line in a Manhattan bank - clenching his fist in his pocket as if holding a gun. Telling the bank teller: "This is a stickup - give me all your money."

Only trouble - the line behind him was filled with policemen. Indeed, the bank containing, in all, about a dozen-off-duty officers - who had just picked up and were cashing their weekly pay checks. The would-be bandit ending up in jail -- almost quicker than it takes to tell it.

As it later developed - the arrest doubly ironic; in that the off-duty policemen had just returned from a funeral for a fellow officer - who was shot and killed thwarting a hold-up.