

FLOODS

Those torrential rains on the west coast that we heard about last night, are creating the worst flood conditions in years. In Northern California, Oregon and Idaho - thousands homeless or stranded. The rain accompanied by gale-like-winds - already claiming at least ten lives. The Governors of all three states - calling out the National Guard - to assist in rescue operations. Property damage in the millions, and in some places - the worst yet to come.

One Yuba City, California, where thirty-two lost their lives - in the tragic flood of Nineteen - Fifty-Five. The swollen waters of the Feather and Yuba Rivers - expected to crest tonight at Yuba, where they join, at a record seventy-nine feet. With city officials doubtful that their new levies can hold back the flood - and advising all the city's sixteen thousand residents to flee their homes.

Just one ray of hope. The weatherman tonight predicting intermittent downpours through tomorrow, with a

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**gradual lessening of the steady torrent that has inundated
the west over the last forty eight hours.**

STRIKE

IN GALVESTON, TEXAS - FEVERISH ATTEMPTS TODAY TO BLOCK A
CRIPPLING DOCK STRIKE. ASSISTANT LABOR SECRETARY JAMES S. REYNOLDS
MEETING FIRST WITH UNION OFFICIALS - THEN WITH SHIPPERS. REYNOLDS
TRYING TO HEEK HEAD OFF A STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN ALONG THE GULF
COAST, ONE THAT WOULD SPREAD QUICKLY - TO ATLANTIC
PORTS. AT LATEST REPORT - A TEMPORARY TRUCE - TO LAST THROUGH
THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. BUT WILD-CAT WALKOUTS IN GALVESTON, HOUSTON
AND BALTIMORE ^{are} ALREADY CRIPPLING SHIPPING THERE.

CRASH

**A NAVY JET - DISABLED AND OUT OF CONTROL - CRASHED AND
EXPLODED TODAY IN THE RETIREMENT VILLAGE OF DE BARY, FLORIDA. ONE
HOME - DESTROYED IN THE BLAST. HALF A DOZEN OTHERS - DAMAGED OR SET
AFIRE.**

**THE DEATH TOLL - ONE CREWMAN - ONE CIVILIAN. THE INJURED
INCLUDING A SECOND CREWMAN - AND TWO OTHER RESIDENTS OF DE BARY
FLORIDA.**

ISRAEL

To many of us - Christmas is a time of peace - and good will. But in the Holy Land today - a running gun battle on Mount Scopus. Jordanian soldiers - clashing with Israeli police. Three Israelis wounded - one in critical condition. Scene of the battle - a hill near Bethlehem - not far from Jeruselem, Jerusalem called "The City of Peace," where there is no peace. Sound of the gun fire heard clearly by pilgrims - many en route to the scene of the nativity. Fighting near where the shepards were watching their flocks the night the Savior was born.

But no mention of that new universal in Viet Nam.

MESSAGE

In this country, the President's Christmas message to our armed forces in Viet Nam -- another grim commentary on the world we live in. President Johnson telling U.S. troops that their struggle against the communist "War of Terror" -- is the fulfillment of America's "commitment to a world of justice". The President is declaring that America's blessings of strength and wealth have also placed upon it the burden of defending freedom -- wherever it is endangered. The President adding "your sacrifices are known" -- and "all Americans join me in sending thanks."

But no mention of that new upheaval in Viet Nam.

RUSK FOLLOW BETHLEHEM

But in Washington, Secretary of State Rush today appealed to the Leaders of South Viet Nam - to put aside personal differences, get on with the war - against the communists. Then adding, that in any case - the U.S. has no intention of pulling out. Calling the crisis in South Viet Nam - along with continuing dissension in the Congo - a major threat to world peace.

VIET NAM FOLLOW RUSK

However, reports from Viet Nam are - more ominous than ever. Gen. Nguyen Khanh charging the U.S. with "unimaginable" political interference and calling' U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Taylor - the chief culprit.

Only yesterday Gen. Khanh precipitated the most recent crisis in U.S. - Vietnamese relations, formally giving his support to - the young army officers who are determined to overthrow civilian rule, and demanding the recall - of Ambassador Taylor - regardless of the consequences.

Taylor - with full support from Washington, replying that his activities in Vietnam -"Have served the best interests of both the United States and Viet Nam."

WILSON

WILSON

GREAT BRITAIN WILL HAVE NO PART IN THAT WOULD SUGGEST

CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT - PROPOSED BY RED CHINA.

THAT'S THE WORD TODAY FROM BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON.

WILSON TELLING THE RED CHINESE THAT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT - CANNOT

BE DISCUSSED IN ISOLATION FROM TOTAL DISARMAMENT. WILSON FURTHER

ACCOMPANYING THE TUG-BOW WITH ANOTHER SLAP-IN-THE-FACE.

TELLING THE RED CHINESE THAT "HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT" VIEWS

CHINA'S RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF AN A NUCLEAR BOMB - WITH PROFOUND

APPREHENSION AND DEEP REGRET.

UNITED NATIONS

The big issue before the United Nations today. Not the Congo - as it has been for weeks - but money. Russia rejecting a face-saving compromise that would have averted a U.N. financial crises. The proposal that Russia contribute to a special U.N. Rescue Fund. The money to wipe out the bills that Russia refuses to pay. Bills for U.N. peace-keeping missions in the Middle East and Africa.

So the Soviets again threatened with loss of their vote in the U.N. - if they don't pay up. They are still demanding the right to vote while negotiations continue. A situation that seems to defy solution.

WEDDING

A wedding at the White House? News tonight that such an event could be in the offing. Luci Baines Johnson - vivacious seventeen year old daughter of the President disclosing that she has been "pinned" - by the son of a Washington physician. The young man later identified as Paul Betz - Luci's Christmas guest at the L. B. J. Ranch.

The wedding when? - It may be a long way off.

A fraternity pin? Now does a fraternity pin always mean marriage? Ask almost any college boy or girl. Or maybe ask Dick.

TRAVEL

From the Far East a story that's a bit far out.

A Belgian news photographer - Alain Massin - claims to have traveled all the way from Belgium to Malaysia - on one American dollar. Massin reporting that he crossed the Balkans - criss-crossed the Middle East - and ambled on into Asia -all in a matter of a few weeks.

A resourceful photographer taking pictures along the way - and selling them to finance his travels. In Kuwait, for example - taking some color pictures for a colorful oil rich sheik, and in return getting cash - and a plane ticket to Pakistan.

He has had a few problems along the way. In Athens - three men attacked him to hold him up. In Teheran - a threatening mob. That one American dollar - he still has it. Even today a little money goes a long way - sometimes.