

Mon. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. 71.

The winter's biggest blizzard - paralyzing large areas of the Plains and Midwest tonight - marooning nearly a thousand motorists in snowdrifts fifteen feet high - closing down factories and schools - and in some places rendering governmental services virtually impossible. The state legislatures in Nebraska - Kansas - and Iowa - cancelling their sessions for lack of attendance. Business and industries closing throughout eastern Nebraska where disastrous floods also left more than two-MILLION dollars in property damage. The Omaha Stockyards - the nation's biggest - shut down. East of the blizzard's path, freezing rain glazed the highways in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Rush hour traffic warnings ~~issued~~ <sup>went out all</sup> through Michigan, northern Ohio <sup>and on east</sup> into New York State.

In the South, the death toll in yesterday's tornadoes in Louisiana and Mississippi has now passed seventy-five.

A major battle - reported shaping up tonight in Southern Laos - where some three-thousand North Vietnamese troops are trying to stop the allied offensive <sup>aimed at</sup> ~~against~~ the Ho Chi Mink Trail. Western military sources say Communist reinforcements are massing for what could be a counter-offensive-in-strength. Still unattained is the South Vietnamese objective of seizing Sepone - a major point on the Trail twenty-seven miles inside Laos. Even so, Saigon sources say the allied offensive has stopped the flow of Communist supplies along the Trail by at least forty percent.

In Washington, Presidential News Secretary Ron Ziegler says the Administration - and the White House - both feel the South Vietnamese operation in Laos is going well - despite the military setbacks.

On Capitol Hill, Senate investigators heard sworn and documented testimony - which claims there was widespread corruption at U-S Army posts in South Vietnam. A witness, saying that even some generals took bribes - one allegedly

**taking "at least a thousand dollars a month." The testimony came from one Jack Bybee - who said the boss of his firm - who sold vending machines, liquor, cigarettes and so on to Army P-X's - used favors and bribes to build a big financial empire in Vietnam.**

**CALLEY**

**Lieutenant William Calley - taking the stand in his own defense - blamed the Army for the tragedy at My Lai - the slaughter of Vietnamese civilians. He contended that - during his training as an officer candidate - he had been drilled to follow orders - and taught to suspect even women and children who might be Viet Cong sympathizers.**

## DOCTORS

The Pentagon has asked Selective Service to draft more than two-thousand physicians and dentists into the Armed Forces during the last half of the current year. If the request is granted, it would be the first draft of doctors in two years <sup>the</sup> first call for dentists since Nineteen-Sixty-Six. A Pentagon spokesman says there's been a drop in volunteer enlistments of doctors and dentists.

Natali B. ... at Simonsburg.

## **HELICOPTERS**

**Britain announced plans to go ahead with the sale of seven military helicopters to South Africa - despite warnings from several black African nations who say they'll pull out of the British Commonwealth if the sales go through. Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home, telling Parliament that Britain has legal obligations to make the sale - under an agreement that gives the British Navy use of the South African Naval Base at Simonstown.**

## **SYRIA**

**Premier-General Hafez Assad assumed presidential powers in Syria tonight - declaring that armed force is the only means of settling the Middle East conflict. Addressing the inaugural session of Syria's new parliament in Damascus, Assad said - "We believe that political struggle is only a subordinate factor in our struggle against Israel - force is the sole way for liberating the occupied areas."**

**BREZHNEV**

*From Moscow comes word that the Communist Party's General Secretary - Leonid Brezhnev - has for the time being, given up many of his routine duties - to devote his time and efforts to preparations for the Party's Twenty-Fourth Congress - scheduled for March Thirtieth. Brezhnev has NOT made a public appearance since February Eighth - giving rise to rumors he'd been incapacitated by a cardiac ailment. Today however, ~~informed sources in~~ Moscow say <sup>S</sup><sub>A</sub> such speculation is "entirely without foundation."*



# EDUCATION

President Nixon,  $\rightarrow$  renewing a former request that went unheeded last session,  $\rightarrow$  again today asked Congress to finance a higher education program costing nearly two-BILLION dollars. The plan would ~~also~~ guarantee loans to college students at all income levels. In his message, the President, saying again - "NO qualified student <sup>(who)</sup> wants to enter college should be barred for lack of ~~money~~ <sup>Funds.</sup>"

## **WILDLIFE**

**The Supreme Court today upheld a decision that gives the Army Corps of Engineers a role in the protection of fish and wildlife in coastal waters. The case involves a group of Florida land developers who wanted to build an island on submerged land they own in Tampa Bay. When the Army Engineers said - NO - because of potential harm to fish and wildlife, the developers went to court - arguing that the Engineers were acting beyond their jurisdiction. Today's high court ruling is expected to give conservationists a new legal weapon.**

# GRINNELL

In another ruling the Supreme Court, in effect, decided that public nudity is NOT a legitimate way to express freedom of speech. It let stand a court decision in Iowa which - a year ago - convicted eight Grinnell College students of indecent exposure. At the time, a representative of Playboy Magazine was delivering a lecture as part of the school's education program. The students - four coeds and four boys - removed all their clothing and stood silently, protesting what they termed "the magazine's commercial exploitation of the body and sexual relationships." The Iowa courts held that undressing in public is NOT a form of free speech.

- Warren -  
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## TELEPHONES

*Placing a phone call in a public telephone booth*

*in Mexico City can be risky - in fact, when you remove the receiver from the hook you might be taking your life in your hands. A local call in Mexico City requires a twenty-centavo coin - worth about two cents in U-S money. Even so, everything from chewing gum and toothpicks to bobby pins and buttons are stuffed into the coin slots by persons tryin<sup>g</sup> to filch a free call. The result - more than twenty per cent of the City's five thousand public phones are constantly out of order. And when a phone swallows a coin without providing a connection, the caller often gives vent to his rage by cutting the cords - shooting the booth full of bullet holes - and even driving his car into the booth - smashing it to smithereens.*

*Have you ever felt that way? What you think it over - I'll say a-l-u-t-m.*