

THURS. MAR. 27, 1969

WALTER REED

At Walter Reed - a ray of hope. Doctors reporting former President Eisenhower - resting "more comfortably." With "no evidence of any further deterioration - in his congestive heart failure." As Ike continues - to hang in there.

~~At Walter Reed ^{Hospital.} another grim day. Doctors reporting today that former President Eisenhower - "continues to grow weaker;" his congestive heart failure - remaining "unchanged." ~~with~~ The General said to be "lucid when awake" - although "he sleeps for longer periods now."~~

The one tower of strength through all this - Mamie Eisenhower. According to the doctors - "a constant source of support and encouragement to the General and others present." Slipping just once - we are told - when she said the other day: "Oh, how I wish we could go back to our farm" - to Gettysburg. Recently she also said to me how much they wished they could return to Denver - where they once ~~much enjoyed their visits - to Colorado.~~ spent so much time.

1/2

PARIS

Rejection at Paris. Communist negotiators turning thumbs down today - on Saigon's proposal for secret peace talks. Calling the South Vietnamese offer - nothing more than a meaningless "maneuver" of the Nixon Administration." All of which - would seem to make it a closed matter.

Ah, but not necessarily so - says Washington. Indeed, U.S. diplomatic sources - suggesting the Communist "no" really meant "Maybe." While Secretary of State ~~William~~ Rogers - testifying before a Senate panel - was calling the Red pronouncement mere "propaganda." Adding that he believes such talks will ~~take~~^{take} place - sooner or later.

Later, Rogers rejecting the idea that the new Nixon Administration - was falling "into the same trap" as the Johnson Administration. The Secretary telling his critics: "Think about what you would do differently than we are doing - bearing in mind that you don't know what we are doing." At which point he emphasized again - that "secret talks" must be secret.

MIDEAST

In the tense Mideast - again - an eye for an eye.

With Arab guerilla gunners in Jordan launching rocket attacks today - against the Israeli border town of Beisan - also, ~~a kibbutz~~ at nearby Bet-Zera.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council - was summoned into emergency session today. Jordan calling ² that ¹ Israeli air strike yesterday - an attempt to frustrate big four talks on the Middle East. Asking the world's major powers, in effect - what are you going to do about it?

PYLOS

A harrowing tale - reported today from Pylos, Greece; where a salvage vessel arrived this morning - towing a Turkish tanker that ~~was~~ capsized Monday in heavy seas. The tanker hardly secure - when dock workers heard a number of men screaming and banging from inside the hull.

Next question: How to get them out? The Pylos harbor staff - finally calling for Navy frogmen. Once they got there - the frogmen cutting their way into the ship's engine room, ^{they found} where ~~finding~~ the ship's second engineer - Mohamed Ozen - just barely alive; surrounded by four of his crewmates - for whom time had just run out. They were all dead. ~~1~~

Fourteen other crewmen - still missing.

VATICAN

Pope Paul in the role of a modern protector? Hardly
~~seems possible, does it!~~ And yet - ^{the} Pope called himself
~~just~~ that today. ^{Said he!} ~~Asserting~~ "We of the church - we, too
are protesters;" protesters against "the fantastic, ~~fantastic~~
superstitious or idolatrous counterfeit" of God - which are
found so often "in modern life;" protesters against "the
despair, the anguish, the void" - where God is absent from
"the heart of man."

The Pope's remarks - at a Vatican conference on
unbelief - or non-belief. With the Pontiff going on to say
- that he is also a "non-believer." This - said he - in
the sense that he does not believe science and religion are
~~antithetical~~ ^{in conflict,} in the sense that he does "not believe ~~that~~
the development of modern thought - leads of necessity to
a denial of God."

DETROIT FOLLOW VATICAN

Here at home - another church protest of sorts.

With the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit - announcing plans to make a "token tax payment" this year of Eight Hundred and Fifty Bucks. Pastor Anthony Perrino saying: "While the church enjoys a tax exempt status - the Congregation is well aware of the mounting cost of police and fire protection, of sanitation and other public works." And then he added: "We hope this will prompt other churches - to do the same thing."

ANCHORAGE
FAIRBANKS

Here's one - a story of nearly ten years in Alaska -
~~appearing in the current issue of McCall's.~~ The writer
telling how he "gave up the security and comfort of East
Coast suburban living - for the adventure and promise of
the last frontier."

Was it worth it? Well, I'll leave it to you. In the
past decade - Alaskan income from fisheries, forest products,
and tourism - more than double its previous high. Along
the way - Alaska coming up with its first commercial oil
discovery; now ranking seventh - among all the oil-producing
states. Alaska also has the youngest of all populations -
averaging just over twenty-three years of age. Which helps
account for the fact that our young migrant - has already
been elected State Senator. Further proof - says he - that
"our new forty-ninth state - was truly the land of
opportunity that my father and I had termed it - in a
'High Adventure' television special."

ANCHORAGE
FAIRBANKS - 2

Oh, yes - I nearly forgot. ^{Who is} The writer? ^{Perhaps you is} ~~did you guess~~

~~it's~~ ^{it's in the} ~~Lowell Thomas Junior~~ ^{current issue of McCall's} - who used to be called "Sonny"

~~down here - but not anymore.~~

SOUTHPORT

From Southport, England, comes the final chapter -

in what I guess you'd
~~is a story. well, would you call it~~ a modern love story?

At any rate - the beginning a year ago - you may recall.

Fellow by the name of Carlo Balastrieri - age twenty-eight -
a local wine waiter - winning a Southport "Prince Charming"
contest. Whereupon he was wed a few days later to a local
spinster - the former Miss Edith North - who was then ninety
years of age. In other words - sixty-two years older than he
was.

Now to bring you up to date: The newlywed Mrs. Balastrieri
passing away recently. Her will - just filed for probate -

including a bequest to her young "Prince Charming" - ~~going to~~

One Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Bucks-American.

would you say Warren
Young Carlo ~~it seems~~ *came out with a Prince*
~~in every way.~~

Charming
~~prince~~ *reward?*

FORT LAUDERDALE

~~This next - from~~ Fort Lauderdale, Florida - "where
the boys are" - ~~and~~ ^{and as you know} the girls, too, this time of year.

Where - coincidentally - the so-called Sexual Freedom League
~~is also~~ ^{there} in session, ~~today~~ announcing plans to stage a nude
wade-in at Fort Lauderdale - at high noon on Easter Sunday.
Purpose - says the League - "to establish the right of nude
swimming at public Beaches."

Who's invited? Anyone at all - we are told. The
League advising would-be participants - merely "to disrobe
on the beach and wade naked into the Atlantic." ^{Some} ~~might say, maybe~~ ^{are saying:} "if only
come to think of it might be a pretty good idea, if only
~~if~~ they ~~to just~~ keep walking - and walking - ~~and walking,~~
until - ~~gub, gub.~~ - s-l-u-t-m,