

Thurs. March 23, 1967

On Capitol Hill - the chairman of a House Space Committee today ordered a "full and complete" investigation - of that tragic fire in Apollo One; the disaster that claimed the lives - of three of America's astronauts.

Congressman Teague of Texas - inviting anyone with relative evidence to testify. This a blanket invitation - said he - because of recent press reports telling of, quote, "gross inadequacies of the Apollo program."

Committee hearings are set to begin a week from Monday. Or as soon thereafter - as possible.

Houston

A related item--from the Manned Space Center in Houston.

Where it was announced today that all three-man-teams scheduled for future Appollo flights--have been temporarily disbanded, Pending a decision on possible program changes--arising from the Appollo One tragedy.

Astronaut Chief Donald "Deke" Slayton saying the Appollo teams will "probably" be the same--when new assignments are handed out. He added, however: "there's not much point in worrying about crew assignments--until we know what we're going to do."

Red China

New trouble today--for Red China. Reports from Hong Kong--telling of thousands of cases of measles and meningitis in the British Crown Colony, With at least four hundred dead--so far. And this--but a spillover; from epidemics of "major proportions"--currently said to be sweeping the mainland.

The problem apparently arising from mass migration of Red Guards--at the height of Chairman Mao's so-called "Cultural Revolution." The Chinese youngsters--reportedly living thirty to forty in a room at times; often sleeping in the streets--in their travels around the country.

Disease ~~is~~ inevitable--under the circumstances--and quickly spreading far and wide--they say.

Viet Nam

Weekly casualty figures from Viet Nam--a clear reflection today of the quickening pace of war. Viet Cong losses coming to nearly twenty-seven hundred men--a new record. American losses--totaling two hundred and eleven; a sharp increase--from the week before. Even so--the ~~kill~~ ratio on all fronts--climbing to about five to one in favor of Allied forces.

Iawalpindi

War planes from Communist China and the United States--side by side today in the skies over Rawalpindi.

With Pakistani pilots at the controls--the aircraft staging an impressive fly-by; as featured performers in a military display--marking Pakistan's twentieth Independence Day.

Back on the ground--President Mohamed Ayub Khan saying that Pakistan should serve as an example--to all other developing nations. This--said he--because of its peaceful relations and growing economic cooperation--with Red China, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and the United States.

SCHRIVER

A vast expansion of the present Selective Service System -- urged today by Anti-Poverty Director Sargent Schriver. To include the registration and testing of every sixteen year old -- male and female; this to provide a "national assessment" -- for future national service.

Schriver, emphasizing, however, that the program should not be directed solely -- to filling the nation's military manpower needs. It should be -- instead -- a continuing census of American youth -- said he. Serving -- among other things -- to identify the "lost legend" of American boys and girls -- who need help in overcoming "their heritgae of deprivation and poverty."

COLUMBUS

From Columbus, Georgia--the strange and tragic story today of a senseless holdup--and its touching aftermath.

The story begins with a woman in a car--handing a note to a drive-in teller at a local bank. A holdup note--printed on dainty, flowered stationery. The woman escaping--with five hundred dollars; only to be captured a short time later at her trailer home--where she was taking care of her three-year-old son.

The reason she was so easy to find: the fact that she was obviously--in the late stages of pregnancy. And, indeed, she gave birth today--to a healthy seven-pound, fourteen ounce son.

And where was her husband--while all this was going on? In Viet Nam--with the U. S. Army.

WHITE HOUSE

The dawning of a new age in education -- the computer age -- heralded today by a special White House panel. In a report urging use of federal funds -- to purchase computers for colleges and universities throughout the land. To bring computer education to the vast majority of schools apparently unable to afford it on their own.

The greatest benefit of computers -- says the report -- in that "they have made masses of data which were previously intractable but now immediately accessible for analysis and understanding: In so doing we're told --they have "fantastically increased our power to know as well as to do." Solving many of the most complex problems-- at the touch of a button. Freeing time "for thought and insight" -- rather than wasting it in mechanical drudgery.

The report concluding that computer education -- "enables the student to do old things more easily; but more important -- it enables him to do things he otherwise could not."

London

A question of slavery--subject for heated debate today in London. A question that seems an anachronism--in today's modern age. Yet timely in London; because of the recent visit of an Arabian potentate--who brought a slave girl with him.

Labor M. P. Ben Whitaker--identifying the ~~visitor~~ visitor as the Sultan of Lahej--Defense Minister for the federation of South Arabia; who apparently brought the girl along for company--during recent talks on South Arabia's upcoming freedom from Britain. Whitaker demanding to know why the government took no action--to free the slave.

Attorney General Sir Elwyn Jones--replying he was unaware of the situation. Adding, however, that "any slave who comes to Britain"--automatically "has the status of a free man;" or woman--as the case may be.

~~The implication~~ ^{maybe} ~~that~~ the Sultan of Lahej ^{will} ~~had better~~ leave his slave girl at home next time, ^{Warren.} ~~or else~~

Latest formula for a long and happy life--comes today from Mrs. Margaret Scott of Los Angeles; on the occasion-- of her one hundred and fifth birthday. "All it takes-- said she--is "finding a good man, marrying young and keeping the fourth commandment."

Mrs. Scott explaining that she was wed early to an older man--who "was a good man, a splendid man." So much so--that "he made me keep going to school"--said she. Enabling her--in her own words--"to grow up" with her husband--to "really [REDACTED] grow close."

Oh yes--that fourth commandment. Remember? "Honor Thy Father [REDACTED]--and Thy Mother." Good advice at any age.