

VIETNAM

**February 7, 1968
Dallas Townsend**

In Vietnam - a grim turn today in border combat near the D.M.Z. With Communist forces using tanks for the first time - also flame-throwers - smuggled in from Laos.

Overrunning a U.S. special forces camp at Lang Vei - not far from Khe Sanh.

Luckily, American and native defenders were able to hole up in their bunkers - after knocking out five of the nine

Soviet-made tanks. American artillery at Khe Sanh - quickly zeroing-in on the camp. Finally forcing the enemy to take flight - leaving behind whole piles of Communist dead.

To the South - a ninth straight day of fighting at Hue - in Saigon - also at Hoi An, near Da Nang. Where American officers were admitting it may be days more - before they can wipe out the last remnants of the enemy's recent offensive.

Latest from Korea - a protest march on the truce village at Panmunjom. Some five hundred South Koreans - most teen-aged girls - trying but failing to break up talks between American and North Korean officials; in the mistaken belief that South Korean matters were being shunted aside - when, in fact, the meeting was concerned almost solely with truce violations.

Back in Washington - the first casualty report from the Pueblo - in the wake of its capture last week off the coast of North Korea. One ~~man~~^{man} dead - identified as Fireman Duane Hodges of Creswell, Oregon; also three injured - Fireman Apprentice Steven Woelk, Radioman Charles Crandell and Marine Sergeant Robert Chicca. Home towns - as yet unannounced.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

At Grenoble, France - another frustrating day for the U.S. Winter Olympic team. The American ice hockey squad losing to Sweden - four|to-three - for [redacted] its second straight loss; American entries finishing way back in the cross-country ski race - won by Italy's Franco Nones; while American Alpine hope Billy Kidd was suffering a painful ankle sprain - that makes him a doubtful starter in his specialty, the slalom. Peggy Fleming - with a commanding lead in the women's figure skating competition - the lone bright spot in the American picture. All this perhaps has something to do with a special report now from our first angry man at Grenoble - Lowell Thomas. Lowell...

of the members of our team, the Canadians and a few more.

So three cheers for Avery Brundage for what he has mainly

been trying to do. And three more cheers for our youngsters

who are here in competition with athletes who all year long

do nothing but what they are sent here to do now. Well, as

the British say, lovely good show, but myrtle game are we playing. So long.

Tape (l. 15)

Hello Dallas, Good evening everybody.

I hope you won't mind if I sound just a bit angry.

Like most Americans who attend the winter Olympics, I do it because I am a winter sports enthusiast. But it seems to me that what is happening here in Grenoble is so loaded with hypocrisy that I wonder, I wonder. Everything about it seems to be pure professional. Even the leading French newspapers are making slashing attacks on our Avery Brundage who is still the head of the International Olympic Committee. They've been attacking him for saying that these games should be for young men and women who are amateurs, but so far as I can see, there are no amateurs here except most of the members of our team, the Canadians and a few more. So three cheers for Avery Brundage for what he has vainly been trying to do. And three more cheers for our youngsters who are here in competition with athletes who all year long do nothing but what they are sent here to do now. Well, as the British say, Jolly good show, but whose game are we playing. So long.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE

No doubt it's pure coincidence - but the Defense Department late today announced it will not take part in the further debate in the days ahead.

Nineteen-Sixty-Nine Paris Air Show. Secretary MacNamara

explaining - this is in line with the administration's efforts

to cut down on excessive spending of American dollars

overseas. The Commerce Department coordinates American

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WASHINGTON

A new second front today in the nation's war on crime.

With President Johnson urging Congress - to speed approval of his anti-crime package of last year. Also calling for creation of "a new and powerful Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs" - to fight growing drug abuse.

At the same time - the President signing an executive order; giving Attorney General Ramsey Clark - complete authority to coordinate enforcement activities of all Federal departments and agencies. This making Clark - the "Mr. Big" of the Federal anti-crime syndicate - said the President.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The U.S. unemployment rate - down to three-point-five per cent last month - lowest level in more than fourteen years; according to figures announced today - by the U.S. Labor Department.

This the third straight month - in which the jobless rate has shown a significant decline. Government experts claiming, however, it was not indicative of any drastic change in the nation's economy - but rather the result of shifting job patterns; with thousands of adult women - successfully rejoining the labor force.

Warren, could it be that the need for paying all those Christmas bills had something to do with it?

ANN ARBOR

From Ann Arbor, Michigan - comes news of the birth of a newspaper. It's called - "Pillow Talk;" published for and by long-term patients - in the children's ward at the University of Michigan Hospital.

Capsule Columns including one by correspondent Clark - age three - who said: "I came to the hospital cause I got sick. I wanna go home. The stinky doctors hurt me."

Another boy correspondent Rodney - age ten - who said: "It's fun riding around in a wheelchair - but sometimes it isn't - like when you run into walls and stuff like that."

And this from correspondent Dale - age twelve - on ways and means of improving hospital life. "I'd put all the nurses and doctors in bed" - said he - "and let the kids give the shots."

Good night.