

L.T.-Calds, Thurs. July 20-'61

For President Kennedy, this was a day of victory and defeat - on Capitol Hill. To begin with the defeat - Mr. Kennedy virtually lost any chance of an increase in postal rates this year. The House post office committee, shelving the bill - until next month.

The Kennedy victories came - on much more important issues. First of all - Foreign Aid. The Senate Foreign Aid Committee, backing the White House - in a series of votes. Giving the president what he wants over eight-billion to help our allies. The senators, also saying "okay" to the idea of - long range borrowing. This country, to offer aid - on the basis of five-year planning.

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Secondly - Space. The House, approving the Kennedy request - for almost two-billion dollars, ~~that much~~, to explore - our solar system, with emphasis on - a rocket to the moon. ~~We~~ We can judge how the Legislators feel about getting Americans into space - by today's vote. Three hundred and fifty four to fifty-nine.

BERLIN

President Kennedy has decided to build American military strength gradually - instead of declaring a national emergency. He could call up the reserves and the National Guard - but the word is that he'll not do so - unless the Berlin crisis grows worse.

The President has placed the Secretary of Defense - in charge of Civil Defense. Secretary Macnamara, to handle the problem of - shelters, warning systems, protection from fallout, and so on.

With a further warning to Khrushchev - Secretary Macnamara will leave for Europe on Saturday. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - and other top military advisors will be with him -- to discuss Nato strategy with General Norstad.

~~STRAUSS~~ STRAUSS

West German Defense Minister Doctor Franze-Josef Strauss, -  
who is here in San Francisco, said today that he does <sup>not</sup> think  
~~Soviet Premier~~ Khrushchev will take military action against Berlin.  
<sup>he thinks</sup>  
That ~~Instead~~ East Germany will engage in what he called <sup>3</sup> "A graduated  
system of ~~pinpricks~~". <sup>P</sup> This top Bonn cabinet official told  
San Francisco newsmen that he does not believe the soviets want any  
war, ~~over Berlin~~, because <sup>that</sup> ~~such a conflict~~ would put everything at  
stake they have achieved since the end of World War One.

<sup>all</sup> "What Khrushchev wants", he added, "is a war of nerves."

The Defense Minister from Bonn is on his way to California's  
Russian River, to the Bohemian Grove.

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## BIZERTE

The battle of Bizerte, we hear, will end - in a stalemate. Neither side, with enough to win. Although the French are in a strongly fortified position - at the northern tip of the Tunisian peninsula that juts out into the Mediterranean, it would take a modern army with powerful air and sea support - to overwhelm the French, and Tunisia doesn't have that kind of an army.

The Tunisians do have many more soldiers than the French, with a nation behind them. Therefore, no French sortie from the naval base is likely to produce a decisive victory. Result - military stalemate.

The real struggle is - ~~MM~~ political. Both sides, trying to line up - world opinion. Paris, claiming that the French have a legal right - to stay in Bizerte. And that evacuation would be a blow - to the free anti-colonialism, a reason for breaking off diplomatic relations with France.

President Bourguiba is receiving support - from nations once ruled by colonial regimes, Morocco, and so on. Also Khrushchev is denouncing France. The Free World statement from Washington represents - the prevailing attitude. Our State Department, appealing for - an end to the violence. Urging quick negotiation - toward a real settlement, as French and Tunisians continue to bombard one another, at Bizerte.

The new wave of violence in the Congo is another case of age-old feuds - erupting in the twentieth century. The place, Kasai - most primitive of all the Congo provinces. Far up the Kasai River - deep in the African bush.

For centuries, the Kasai Tribe has been feuding with - the Kanioka Tribe. The Kasais, having the upper hand now - because the self-styled "King" of the province is a Kasai. Albert Kalonji - who is accused of ordering the present regime of terror, the Kasai - charging through the jungle - invading Kanioka Villages, killing the men - carrying off women and children, <sup>and</sup> leaving scores of burning huts behind.

Tonight, thousands of Kaniokas - ~~are~~ in headlong flight, <sup>are</sup> begging the UN - for protection. Protection from - the law of the jungle.

## SPACE

It looks as if Captain Virgil Grisson may be in for - a longer wait. Although scheduled for his rocket into space - tomorrow, he's still being harassed by the weather. Meteorologists giving him only a fifty-fifty chance to take off.

And then there's the hurricane season. Hurricane "Anna", moving up the coast of South America.

## FLOOD

In Charleston, West Virginia, a captain of the National Guard said today - "never seen anything like it! The houses are thrown around like toys".

He was referring to - that "West Virginia Monsoon". The cloudburst that sent the Kanahwa River and nine of its tributaries - over their banks. The flood, roaring down on Charleston in a wall of water - fifteen feet high. Tonight part of the city is - a shambles. More than a dozen - dead. Many - missing. Hundreds - homeless. I suspect Pat Witherow's famous Union Mission is playing an important role in helping those in distress.



FIRE

California fire fighters at last have the high forest fires under control. The situation, now so much improved that hundreds of volunteer firemen are being sent home. The regulars, remaining on duty - to beat out the last flames. Especially in the Kings River country, east of Fresno - where timber along a perimeter of twenty-nine miles went up in smoke. I hear there have been some two hundred forest fires out here this month; with a hundred-thousand acres of glorious timber ruined.

Not many trees  
at N. & M. - near  
up on Nick's Station  
Cincinnati products  
way at N. & M.

~~EXPLOSION~~ EXPLOSION

Today's explosion on the lot at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer - was like something out of an MGM western. A cache of explosives in a wooden shed - blowing up. Killing two men - who were in the shed at the time. ~~was~~ like - an old fashioned dynamiting.

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Actually, the reference to westerns is appropriate for another reason. The shed, <sup>happens to be - or was -</sup> a transfer point for gunpowder used in horse operas." Carl Elmendorf and Dell Prince were moving the ammo - from the MGM studio vault to the stage. Piling it into the transfer shed half way between - only to have the gunpowder explode as they were handling it.

Not many hours before I had been at M & M - near that shed -- checking up on Nick Reisini and the 2 new Cinerama productions that are under way at M & M.

CONTEST

Today, the Communist bloc was challenged by - the Universe.

I mean - Miss Universe. Marlene Schmidt of West Germany - who topped all the world's beauties in the Miss Universe contest.

The point being - that Marlene is a refugee from East Germany.

That's why the East German Reds are saying - her victory was a fraud.

~~Nothing but~~ Anticommunist propaganda / Intended to make East

Germany look bad - as the place where Miss Universe wouldn't stay.

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Now Dicks.

*Howes*

Here's the story of - Cleo, and the Milkman. ~~Sounds interesting~~  
~~but, judge for yourself.~~

Cleo, a boxer - belonging to Mrs. Jane Rose of Levittown, New York. Some months ago, a milkman noticed the dog - through a glass door. Whereupon - he developed the following routine. On each visit - meowing like a cat. Scratching the door - like a cat trying to get in. Waving a <sup>piece</sup> of rope - like a cat's tail.

Cleo, responding - like any red-blooded dog. Running around inside, howling - leaping at the door. Frantic over what she thought was - a cat outside. On Tuesday, Cleo finally made it - jumping right through the glass door. Finding - nobody but the milkman.

~~Now~~ <sup>*Cleo did have*</sup> the boxer didn't bit him. ~~But she had~~ to be treated by a vet - for cuts and bruises. Also injured feelings. Her owner, estimating the damage at a hundred and fifty-dollars. Suing the second party in the case of - Cleo and the Milkman.