

Good evening everybody. A Gulf of Tonkin

resolution in reverse. That's what its backers call the resolution that was approved in the Senate this afternoon - as an amendment to the twenty-billion-dollar military procurement bill. It would limit any US defense of Thailand and Laos to supplies and equipment - no troops. Republican John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, who introduced the ~~amendment~~ amendment, argues the language is so broad that it has the same legal authority as a declaration of war. But the Defense Department contended it did not constitute a legal limitation on US forces, hence did not fight it. Whatever the amendment is or isn't, it was approved by the Senate, eighty-six to nothing.

PENTAGON

From the Pentagon - a promise today of lower draft calls soon to some. This during a discussion of plans - for the latest U.S. troop withdrawal from Vietnam. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird observing that South Vietnamese troops - will thereby assume a greater share of the war effort. A development that "will have a very significant effect" - said Laird - "on draft calls for the months ahead." While he didn't exactly spell it out - an apparent pledge that they will be lower

D.M.Z. FOLLOW PENTAGON

**But the war goes on. Ground action including today -
ironically - an attack on a Marine unit that will soon be
heading State-side. The Viet Cong overrunning a Leatherneck
outpost - just below the D.M.Z. Killing fifteen and
wounding twenty-three - in the heaviest fighting in that area
since August Tenth.**

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - surprise announcement today.

President Nixon telling of plans to ask Congress - for a ten

per cent increase in Social Security benefits - effective

April First. This in place of a seven per cent boost - he

had earlier said he would ask. The President explaining his

change of heart - by noting a steady price rise over the past

five years. Adding: "Those who suffered the most - are the

older citizens living on fixed incomes."

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS SLUGGED "WASTELAND")

**With Lowell Thomas still temporarily incommunicado -
time again for another special report he left us. Topic for
tonight - well, you might call it - a transplant operation.**

Lowell...

WASTELAND

Hello Everybody: One of the most thought-provoking sights for any trans-continental traveller - the vast stretches of wasteland in the great American Southwest on down into Mexico. Millions and millions of acres - inhabited solely by jack rabbits, prairie dogs, coyotes, rattlers and so on. Its vegetation - largely sage brush, salt bush, mesquite. Without irrigation - it's unable to support cattle, sheep or, for that matter, any livestock at all

Ah, but it doesn't have to be that way. Or at least so says Paul Martin - professor of Geochronology at the University of Arizona. The solution he gives us - to restock that land with wild beasts from Africa and other regions but mainly giraffes and elands and perhaps camels again. Browsers - as opposed to grazers - browsers who thrive on brush - finding it just as nutritious as alfalfa. In a world starving for protein - this would be a potential source of enormous stocks of high quality meats.

The question it immediately raises is - well what about the balance of the nature there? Observers recall that rabbits were introduced to Australia not so long ago - and quickly over ran that continent - the same with red deer - in New ~~Zealand~~. Zealand.

However, Professor Martin tells us that it couldn't happen here; noting that the balance in North America - is now and has been in an upset state for some Ten Thousand years and the chief culprit - the one who did it - Man. And he adds that, indeed, giraffes, elands and camels are now "more native" to the kind of land we are talking about - than even the animals who have always seemed to live there.

Solong.....

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "WASTELAND")

Thank you, Lowell.

Back to the news...

DRUGS

"Marijuana - fact and fable" - the topic for today at that continuing Senate hearing on drug abuse. With Dr. Stanley Yolles - director of the National Institute of Mental Health - attempting to set the record straight. Asserting on the basis of documented evidence: One - that marijuana is "generally a mild drug." Two - it rarely leads to crime, in and of itself. Three - it is not an aphrodisiac, as commonly believed. And four - only five per cent of chronic users of marijuana go on to stronger drugs such as heroin.

The reverse side though - the doctor ~~states~~ advising that marijuana is far from harmless. Observing that it can cause "instances of acute panic, depression and other psychotic states. Adding that, indeed, it actually ~~take~~^{take} over "certain kinds of individuals" - robbing them of their human drive.

CAIRO

From Cairo by way of Beirut - comes the story today of bizarre plot. According to right-wing observers - a civilian plot against the military regime of Egypt's President Nasser. This said to be - a Soviet-inspired "conspiracy." The plan reportedly calling for a coup later this month - when Nasser would supposedly be in Russia for medical treatment.

Only trouble - we are told - the plotters were found out. Nasser ordering an immediate purge of top civilian administrators - so they say. The list supposedly headed by pro-Soviet ex-Egyptian Premier Ali Sabry - who is now reportedly under house arrest in Cairo. All this - true or not - a sign apparently of growing unrest in Egypt.

In any case, the premier of Jordan said today that Nasser is sick - under continued medical treatment - and was too ill to see him when he was in Cairo earlier this week. The authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahran says Nasser has cancelled all engagements and has been ordered to take a complete rest by his doctors.

CASTEL GANDOLFO

At the summer Vatican - Castel Gandolfo - Pope Paul lashed out today at rebellious priests. Asserting that some have gone too far - in forsaking their clerical dress - in changing their ways of thinking and living. Also, "too much" free discussion of priestly celibacy - said he. Adding that these "symptoms" - as he called them - "seem to foreshadow grave calamities for the church itself." But the Pope declared his confidence in the future of the church - he does not subscribe to the views of those who think it's in danger of coming part.

are still "obliged to support their clerical parcels."

Warren, that seems to illustrate the old saying - the more things change, the more they remain the same - even in China.

BUDAPEST

At Budapest, Hungary - a meeting of the International Birth Control Congress. Hearing a report from Dr. Franz Novak of Yugoslavia - on the first feeble attempts at birth control in teeming Red China.

Peking's ultimate goal - said he - a limit of two children per family. However, the drive having little effect in China's vast rural areas - we are told; and this because the Chinese peasant has an important economic reason for having a great number of children."

Dr. Novak explaining that now, as ever, Chinese sons are still "obliged to support their elderly parents."

Warren, that seems to illustrate the old saying - the more things change, the more they remain the same - even in China.

STANFORD

Found: The secret of eternal youth - for bugs, anyway. Professor William Johnson of Stanford University - announcing today the development of a so-called "juvenile hormone." One that works on certain moths - said he; but it won't work for humans - and maybe just as well.

Reason: The Johnson "juvenile hormone" - developed specifically for pest control. A job it does very well - by keeping the treated bugs in a state of permanent adolescence. They never grow up. A state that sometimes seems to be well populated with humans as well as bugs.

Good night.