

L.T. COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A drastic overhaul of the draft -- urged tonight
by a special Congress-appointed review board. The panel
-- headed by retired General Mark Clark, strongly
recommends changes that would take younger men first --
eliminate college as a draft haven -- and limit deferments
only to men in critical fields.

STRATEGY

Already tried and proved in action - a bold new plan of attack may soon become standard operation procedure in Viet Nam. U S and Allied military commanders reportedly drawing a blueprint tonight - for a massive step-up of ground action in that embattled land, through a series of simultaneous large-scale offensives - in longtime Communist strongholds.

There have been six such operations - in the two weeks since the lunar New Year truce. And soon there will be dozens more - we're told -- from one end of the country to the other. Each - involving tens of thousands of allied troops. Enough, hopefully, to keep the Viet Cong permanently off-balance -- permanently on the run.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW STRATEGY

Here at home -- President Johnson confirming the new strategy -- at least in part saying the United States has just embarked -- on a new and "far reaching" plan of military action in Vietnam. However, the President denying that this represents an escalation of the war; one that could endanger prospects -- for peace.

Said the President: "The big road we follow -- is a search for peace. Everything we do -- is in that direction. And I believe" -- he went on -- "that what I am doing is the course best calculated -- to bring that about."

The goal, in short, said the President, "to provide the maximum deterrent to those who believe aggression pays."

MIAMI BEACH FOLLOW WASHINGTON

At the same time -- Vice President Hubert Humphrey at a news conference today at Miami Beach; predicted that national elections in South Vietnam this summer -- will prove to be the turning point in the war.

Hubert Humphrey saying that freedom of the ballot-box -- will cause the mass defection of many Viet Cong -- guerrillas who are nationalists not Communists. This almost certain -- said he -- to result in a de-escalation of the war; and moving ever closer to the peace table.

VIET NAM FOLLOW HUMPHREY

Meanwhile, another sneak shelling attack today - on that big U S air base at Da Nang. With many of the rounds - landing in a nearby Vietnamese village. To The final count of casualties numbering forty-seven dead - including twelve Americans.

A U S military spokesman later reporting that some of the ~~shack~~ shells - were ~~appax~~ apparently fired from a long-range, Soviet-built rocket launcher. If true ^{it is} the first time the Viet Cong have had the use of such a potent weapon - within the borders of South Viet Nam.

SAIGON FOLLOW VIETNAM

On the political front -- a massive demonstration tonight in Saigon. Some five hundred youthful Vietnamese -- invading the French consulate; to protest the reported establishment in Paris -- of a so-called "South Vietnamese government in exile" -- said to be really -- a Communist front organization.

The mob breaking through a front door -- throwing furniture around -- smashing windows -- and finally setting fire to a number of french vehicles parked outside.

RED CHINA

Latest from Red China: News today that key Shansi Province ~~now~~ near Peking -- has now been placed under a "military dictatorship". Troops loyal to chairman Mao Tse Tung - said to have seized all power; in a ~~big~~ bid to weed out, quote "reactionary powerholders" - in the local Communist party and local government.

~~In making the announcement~~ Radio Ep Peking stressing the importance of ~~any~~ army support for chairman Mao in Shansi. Leading to speculation that army support in other areas - may still be in doubt.

In the Middle East -- the government of Jordan today turned its back on nine other Arab League states. Announcing "immediate resumption" of diplomatic relations -- with West Germany; ties ordered severed by the Arab League -- when Bonn recognized the State of Israel nearly two years ago. King Hussein continues to defy Egypt's Dictator Nasser.

Transmitted from New York City

DOMESTIC FOLLOW UP MIAMI BEACH

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On the domestic front - another special message today to Congress. The President once again urging home rule - for the district of Columbia. Also calling for a stiff gun control law - to combat the ~~apx~~ capital's high rate of crime. The President noting, for example that Washington has an ~~xx~~ annual hand-gun murder rate - more than five times that of New York City.

ROADS

Elsewhere in Washington - the government today "un-froze" a hundred and seventy-five million in highway construction funds; in an effort to put a little kick - into the nation's sagging highway construction program.

The amount - part of a billion-plus; tied up by the President last year in an effort to prevent inflation. Transportation Secretary Alan Boyd saying additional funds will also be released - as "soon as economic circumstances permit."

HOFFA

The sands of time -- fast running out on Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa. With the U.S. Supreme Court today rejecting his latest attempt -- to escape an eight year sentence for jury tampering.

Hoffa's lawyers -- still hoping to establish grounds for further delay. Basing their case on the fact that Hoffa is currently seeking a new trial -- in the lower courts; also, that he's currently involved in negotiations -- on a nationwide teamsters contract.

But failing another last-minute stay -- Hoffa could be behind bars before the week is out.

YELLOWSTONE

Out West -- time did run out today -- for hundreds of Yellowstone elk. U.S. Park Service Rangers in snowmobiles and helicopters -- driving the elk into the sights of expert government riflemen in the start of a drive to thin-out the giant elk-herd -- now threatening to destroy Yellowstone's range land.

After some six hundred elk are shot thousands more will be driven north to Montana -- where they will be fair game for hunters.

JACKSON HOLE

There's still gold -- in them thar hills. This word today -- from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. A U.S. geological survey reporting discovery of rich gold-bearing ore; a find perhaps worth billions of dollars.

The government refusing to pinpoint location of the strike and warning potential gold-seekers -- that it wouldn't do them much good if they did know.

It seems this gold is encased -- in nearly fifty cubic miles of solid rock; mostly sandstone -- deposited in the area some fifty millions years ago; with the recovery of the yellow metal calling for massive investment -- in heavy mining equipment. Want to start or join a gold rush,

Warren?

LONDON

In London -- Britain's Princess Margaret made her first public appearance tonight; since the start of rumors round the world -- about alleged trouble in her marriage. The Princess attending a gala premier ^{of} the latest Richard Burton-Elizabeth Taylor film -- "The Taming of the Shrew."

Burton himself -- first to greet Princess Margaret at the Odean Theater in Leicester Square. Said the Actor: "I hope you are not as nervous tonight as I am, Ma'am." Said Margaret -- with a smile: "Would you like to bet."

Oh yes, and Lord Snowden has turned up in New York -- saying the rumors are all news to him.