

INDOCHINA

Tues, Feb. 2nd: 71.

The war news from Southeast Asia - marked today by enemy reports telling of a big ~~Attled~~ offensive - across the South Vietnamese frontier into Laos. U.S. sources in Vietnam adding - there is apparently such a mission now underway; an operation supposedly spearheaded - by South Vietnamese troops.

From Saigon though - a stony silence; with a news embargo, ordered last week, & still in effect.

Here at home - Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird - also refusing public comment on any such offensive.

Nevertheless, ^{he did say:-} ~~Melvin Laird stresses~~ "There will be, and there are no, American ground combat troops - operating in Laos."

For the flight of Apollo-Fourteen - the quietest day yet. Astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa and Ed Mitchell - enjoying a brief respite from the trials and tribulations of the past two days. Their duties now so light that Stu Roosa said at one point - the crew "could play a lot of tic-tac-toe" on their flight plan. For the most part though - only the sounds of silence drifting back across the ~~blank~~ void of space. The men of Apollo-Fourteen - fast earning a reputation as the "quiet men" of the space program. And, after all they've already been through - ~~space~~ space officials here on earth observing, in effect: "They're entitled." to some quiet - if it's what they prefer.

UNITED NATIONS

From the United Nations - here in New York - an appeal today directed to both sides in the Arab-Israeli impasse. U.N. Secretary General U Thant - urging another last-minute extension of the present Mideast cease-fire. U Thant adding that this ~~was~~^{is} vital - inasmuch as peace efforts have now reached a "very difficult and crucial stage."

Meanwhile, in Cairo - Egypt's President Anwar

Sadat was meeting today with his top military advisers,

attempting to determine yes or no on a truce extension - with

the deadline now less than forty-eight hours away.

ROME FOLLOW CAIRO

At the same time, a clue perhaps to Egyptian strategy - reported today from Rome; where the visiting Vice President of Egypt's National Assembly told reporters "Egypt does not feel bound to extend the truce." Kamal El-Din El-Hennawy adding, however - "this does not mean ~~that~~ we will resume firing of February Sixth or Seventh." And he added: "As far as we are concerned - there will be a de facto cease-fire."

POSTAL

From the new U.S. Postal Service - a formal request today for a new increase in postal rates; from six cents up to eight cents for a first class letter - from ten cents up to eleven for air mail. The postal ~~request~~^{request} also calling for newspaper and magazine rates - more than double those at present.

Assistant Postmaster General James Hargrove - who was given the job of breaking the news - saying this would yield a ~~Billion~~^{Billion}-and-a-Half in additional revenue during fiscal Nineteen-Seveny-Two. An attempt - he added to "put the postal system on a sound financial basis - and shift more of the costs from the taxpayer generally to those who use the mail the most."

President Nixon's new Treasury Secretary-designate - John Connally - formally approved by the Senate Finance Committee today - without dissent. This following his explanation of fees he received - while serving as Governor of Texas. Connally testifying that these were deferred payments - for past services as a co-executor of the estate of the late oil billionaire, Sid Richardson.

Connally then going on to say that he actually "gave up" - an additional ~~Half~~-Million or so in similar fees that would have been due him. This - said he - "in order to accept the position of Secretary of the Navy" - when it was offered to him by President Kennedy fully a decade ago. "I never said this before" - Connally went on - "I don't deserve plaudits for it - I don't regret it - but I don't think I deserve to be pilloried for it." ~~And~~ ^{Connally} Final approval by the full Senate ^{is} now considered a virtual certainty.

BERKELEY

Berkeley, California - a taped message from self-exiled Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver - played today over local radio. Chief subject: Dr. Timothy Leary - who is also living now in Algiers. Cleaver saying that Leary had "suffered a revolutionary bust" - meaning he was arrested - and later placed "under Panther protection" for five days. This - said he - because of Leary's increasing dependence on LSD and other psychedelic drugs.

The Black Panther leader further stating that Leary now "seems content - to continue advising people to turn on, tune in and drop out." But dropping out with drugs - he continued - is in "direct conflict with the needs of the American Revolution." Eldridge Cleaver therefore saying: "We're through - we're finished with relating to this madness - and we want everyone to know."

~~REDACTED~~ FASHION

Over in London - a new look at ladies' fashions -
from a male point of view. The male in question - Walter
Koby, chairman of the British Tie Manufacturers
Association; who says that women are taking up so-called
"hot pants" - in response to, quote, "the increasing peacock
awareness of men;" an awareness readily apparent - he
continues - in the fact that men are "becoming still more
colorful with their ties and shirts." And he adds that this
is especially disconcerting to women - inasmuch ^{— so he tells us —} as "ties are
clearly the sexiest item in a gentleman's wardrobe."

So he says John Shefer, Male fashion expert
Male ~~expert~~ ^{expert} Walter Koby calls "hot pants" -

"women's last desperate attempt not to be outdone by men."

What say you Don Robertson.

Washington again - another National Prayer

Breakfast; an event sponsored annually - by members of the Senate and House; drawing this year more than three thousand dignitaries - including more than a hundred members of the foreign diplomatic corps as well as most of the Senators and Congressmen.

~~And the main~~ ^{and} speaker - President Nixon; who called the massive turn-out - convincing evidence ^{that} "there's a great deal of goodness, a great deal of moral strength and fiber still left in this country." "In the end" - he went on - "that's what matters." The President adding: "If America can be not just big and strong but also a good country - we will truly remain what this country was called at the time of its birth - the hope of the world." Dr. Edw. Elson, Chaplain of the Senate told me this afternoon that Ch. Jus. Warren Burger made an impressive address built around the 23rd. Psalm.