

LOWELL THOMAS
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VIET NAM

That so-called demilitarized zone in Viet Nam--about the most un-demilitarized zone in all that land--as of tonight.

A big Viet Cong build-up is reported to the north; American Marines and paratroopers--digging in to the South.

In between-- a five-hour battle today. American forces-- intercepting a band of would-be Viet Cong infiltrators, and killing at least sixteen before they faded into the jungle.

At the same time--American planes destroying a large fuel and ammunition dump--deep inside the No Man's Land. The Communist supplies evidently in readiness--for that expected Monsoon offensive.

Back at Saigon--visiting U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara was reported appalled today--by the pile-up of war goods in Saigon harbor. McNamara demanding that congested ports be cleared immediately--and the supplies put to good use. This a vital necessity--saidehe--to the build-up of more men and material to fight the Viet Cong.

PENTAGON

A sharp reduction in the draft call for November was announced today at the Pentagon; along with a greatly reduced quota--for December, as well.

The November call--cut back by more than six thousand men; to a new quota--of some thirty-six thousand. The quota for December--set at only twelve thousand, and by mid-month, to avoid summoning men to active duty during the holiday season.

However, lest there be any suspicion of a slowdown in the U.S. military build-up--defense officials add that January will be back to normal; with another draft call--of thirty thousand or more.

PRESIDENT

President Johnson - once again the tireless
campaigner, today ~~on a~~^{on a} frankly political tour -
before he leaves for the Far East.

In Baltimore, as predicted, the President
calling for a minimum increase of at least ten percent-
in Social Security benefits. "Too often we have ignored
our older Americans" - said he; "too often we have
condemned them - to live out their lives in ~~want~~ want."

Later, in New York, the President thundering
Texas-style, in behalf of local and state-wide Democratic
candidates. On the one hand - applauding the record of
the Democratic eighty-ninth Congress. On the other -
blasting Republicans as ~~Xafm~~ "afraid of their own shadow --
and afraid of the shadow of progress."

SENATE FOLLOW PRESIDENT

Incidentally, the President was asked today -
to attend a "non-partisan, non-fund-raising" lunch this
Friday in the U S Senate; And he ~~prompted promptly~~
accepted the invitation.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and
Senate minority leader Everett Dirksen ^{to} ~~co-hosted~~ _入 the
affair. Mansfield calling it a bon voyage party - as a
"friendly gesture to an old colleague." Dirksen adding:
"We'll sing for him - 'All the old familiar places'."

49

SPACE

In the beginning - there was the walkie-talkie; a sort of portable radio transmitter - for instant communication on the battlefield. Next- the creepie-peepie; a portable television transmitter - for instant coverage of new events here at home.

Coming up - ~~a device that~~ ^{we hear we now have what} could well be ~~is~~

called -- the "super-snooper". A small, hand-held television camera - specially built for the Apollo series of space missions; ~~First~~ ^{First} of which - is now set for ~~us~~ early December.

Plans for the new device - unveiled today in Washington. Space officials saying that if all goes well - the "super-snooper" will soon give American home viewers - their first live pictures from space. And later ~~on~~ ^{on} ~~they hope~~ ^{they hope} the first ~~live~~ ^{live} pictures of a manned landing on the moon.

A HUNDRED MILLION

Have you ever heard of the Big and Little Burro Mountains? They are in a rather remote part of New Mexico, where some forty-five years ago there was a copper-mining town called Tyrone. Since then just another western ghost town. Now, according to Robert Wright of the New York Times, it's about to come to life in a spectacular way, with the giant Phelps-Dodge Corporation to spend a hundred million dollars on the reopening of the copper mines.

It's always thrilling to hear of a ghost coming to life. Moreover the Phelps-Dodge people are going to build an ultra-modern mining town.

I hope this idea is contagious and spreads in the West, especially in the direction of Colorado, where I happen to know of an area that may contain anywhere from half a billion to a billion in gold--still in the rocks. Because of the expense of gold mining and the devaluation of gold, Cripple Creek and nearby Victor, with most of the gold mines--once "the

A HUNDRED MILLION--2

World's Greatest Gold Camp"--these have become semi-ghost cities. One of the leading gold mining experts of the world is Don McLaughlin, long head of the rich Homestake Mine in the Black Hills. Don McLaughlin and I for years have been talking about how we might reopen the mines at Cripple Creek and take out that half a million or billion. Now wouldn't that be high adventure?

With what the Phelps-Dodge people are doing in the Little and Big Burro Mountains in New Mexico, I hope Don McLaughlin will take another look at my old home town high up in the Rockies of Colorado.

JACKSONVILLE

From Jacksonville, Florida - the astounding story today of a twenty-five year old structural ironworker, Gevonnia Messer - who neither smokes nor drinks - who attends church every Sunday - who believes devoutly in the power of prayer. The more so now - than ever before, following a two hundred foot fall - from a bridge currently under construction across the St. John's River.

Miraculously alive ~~mx~~ when he was fished from the water - ~~mx~~ Messer offering the following explanation. "I prayed real fast" - said he - "all the way down - all two hundred feet - that God would let me live."

His prayers answered - it seems; for though he was later admitted to a hospital - ~~mx~~ Gevonnia Messer at last report, well on the road to recovery, Warren.

HAIR

Youth will be served--they say. And in the case of boys who want to wear Beatle-style haircuts--it's apparently true. Slowly but surely--the long tresses are said to be winning grudging approval from parents, and even school principals. I wonder.

The new improved attitude among the powers-that-be, they say is best summed up by Dr. Lewis Albee, Assistant Superintendent of high schools in San Francisco. "Obviously, we would prefer men students to wear short hair"--said he-- "but it's a juvenile prerogative to be non-conformist." Therefore--he went on, "in so far as youngsters behave themselves and are clean--we ignore long hair and other juvenile aberrations."