

DEBATE - *L.T. Buick, Fisher Wed. Mar. 21/66.*

Heated Republican reaction today - to an attempt to revise the so-called "great debate" in Congress, ~~Supposedly~~ stilled by the President's twin vote of confidence from both sides of Capitol Hill.

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House Republican leadership accusing Democratic Doves - of encouraging the enemy and thus prolonging the war in Viet Nam. Congressman Laird of Arizona - urging the President, to disavow his Senate critics now; ~~Lest~~ ^{further} there be ~~damage~~ - to the American war effort.

MCNAMARA FOLLOW DEBATE

This related item - a flat denial today by Defense Secretary ~~Robert~~ McNamara to a Senate charge that America's armed forces have been over-extended to meet the needs of the war in Viet Nam.

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McNamara noting that there are indeed some ~~as~~ three hundred thousand American fighting men - now committed to ~~South~~ East Asia. Adding however that "we are fully capable of meeting our commitments - elsewhere in the world." "It is clear therefore" - ~~has~~ said he - "that far from over-extending ourselves - we have actually strengthened our military position."

McNamara emphasizing that his statement - was directed both to friend and foe alike. So there will be no miscalculation - either at home or abroad - as to America's military capabilities.

VIETNAM

Latest casualty count from Vietnam: One hundred and nine Americans killed in action -- during the last week. A tragic toll. But, what of the other side -- the Viet Cong losses? More than eleven hundred. Ten times as many, in the same period. A good reason why the Viet Cong -- has suddenly become reluctant to fight, which was apparent today, as three allied drives in South Vietnam -- encountered only scattered resistance. The enemy avoiding battle.

SPAIN

The State Department today officially acknowledged for the first time that one of ⁹our H-bombs is missing. Specifically -- the nuclear weapon lost in the plane crash six weeks ago. Bomb now believed to be lying -- in about twelve hundred feet of water off Palomares, Spain.

Long delay in confirming the loss attributed to "security considerations." Why will it be found -- and, hopefully recovered? The State Department replying in effect: "Your guess is as good as ours." Meanwhile, this from Madrid -- an announcement today that Angier Biddle Duke -- U.S. Ambassador to Spain -- will fly to Palomares next week, along with his family and the Spanish Minister of Information and Tourism; there to inaugurate a new hotel -- and coincidental^{ly} -- to swim in the sea. Purpose -- to prove once and for all -- there is no danger from radio activity.

MESSAGE

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Still another special Presidential message to Congress today, ~~The latest~~ - calling for establishment of a new department of Transportation - with Cabinet rank; ^{this} ~~To~~ consolidate the mass of federal agencies ~~that are~~ now charged with responsibility for government transportation policies.

At the same time - the President urging creation of an independent - national safety transportation board, ~~With~~ an initial budget of seven hundred million dollars - to finance a new six year highway safety program, ~~Beginning~~ with a federal ban on the interstate sale of automobiles that fail to meet required safety standards.

GHANA

A rush of departures today from Ghana -- coupled with one notable home coming. On the way out -- about a hundred and thirty Russian citizens. Mainly technicians and their families -- expelled by Ghana's new military government. On the way back -- Alex Quaison-Sackey -- Foreign Minister under ousted President Kwame Nkrumah, who returned to Accra today, and quickly pledged his alliance to the new regime.

As for Nkrumah himself -- he left Moscow today after twenty-four hours of secret meetings with top Soviet officials; arriving a short time later at Conakry -- capital of Ghana's neighbor Guinea -- which had previously backed up his leftist policies to some extent. Nkrumah's next move? We'll have to wait and see.

INDONESIA

At Jakarta a dramatic attempt today by President Sukarno - to reclaim the support of Indonesian students. Sukarno calling for creation of a national students union - designed to unite "progressive revolutionary forces," including both leftist and rightist students - and especially those of the outlawed anti-Communist student organization known as Kapi.

Kapi's reply: A challenge to Sukarno - to put his policies to a national vote. To stand or fall - on the results. The secret "voice of free Indonesia" adding that anti-Communist students are ready to take up arms - rather than submit to extinction.

FIGHT

After nine days of confusion -- a series of rapid fire decisions. And, as of now -- that on-again, off-again Clay-Terrell championship bout -- definitely on again.

The fight seemed to be dead early this afternoon, when the Illinois State Athletic Commission -- finally voted two to one to kill it; formally denying a Chicago promoter -- the license he needed to stage the fight.

The cancellation -- on a legal technicality -- following that angry outburst by Clay as you may recall, when he was reclassified One-A in the draft.

But now comes word from Montreal -- that the fight will be held in that Canadian city -- on the twenty-ninth of this month; the date -- originally planned; with official Ottawa sanction - already assured.

HAIR

A blow for sanity in the hair cut department -- was struck today by Peter Noon of all people. A long-haired lad perhaps better known to ^{some Americans,} americans as the leader of a British musical group called Herman's Hermits.

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Peter - or Herman - if you will - returning to London today from a world tour. Whereupon he immediately announced - that his next hair cut will be a short ~~one~~.

Reason - said Herman - because long hair upsets people and they think you're a delinquent trying to change the world." Herman adding that as a result - he felt he had let his country down. -

But no more. ^{His} ~~the~~ long hair - soon to be long gone.

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And there are more signs that Long Hair - has become square, on its way out, Warren.

MONROE

From Monroe, Wisconsin; a victory for cat lovers; who staged a four hour protest before the Monroe Common Council; winning a two month delay -- in imposition of a new law. One that would require all cats to be kept on leashes when permitted out of doors. Said a local Wisconsin psychiatrist: "If we leash this last of the free animals -- next it will be children."

Now -- from Mt. Mansfield, Stowe, Vt. S.L.U. tomorrow.