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Shock waves from Britain's devaluation of the pound -- thundered today across the American economy. Biggest reaction -- on the New York Stock Exchange, where the Dow-Jones industrial average tumbled nearly fifteen points -- in the first-hour of trading. Followed by a sudden turnaround -- regaining ~~some~~ ^{about} two-thirds of the lost ground.

More reaction -- ~~in Washington~~ [?] from Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee -- who earlier killed the President's request ^{ed} tax increase. Mill's saying he has now changed his mind -- in ~~view~~ ^{the wake} of the British action; accordingly, calling a committee meeting next week -- to reconsider the proposed tax hike.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic -- Britain's Labor Government had some tall explaining to do today; with Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callaghan -- bearing the brunt of the burden. True enough [?] -- said Callaghan -- devaluation of the pound will hit every Briton in the pocketbook; but it is "the price we shall have to pay" -- said he -- if Britain is to remain a great nation.

Also in Washington -- another surprise twist today from Michigan Governor Romney. The newly-announced Republican candidate for President -- generally considered a "peace" candidate -- today saying he is against a bombing halt over North Vietnam, ~~unless~~ -- said Romney -- unless we "have reason to believe -- there would be some worthwhile result."

What sort of result? One that would "defuse" the whole Indo-China region -- said the governor -- ~~removing~~ it entirely from the worldwide East-West struggle. This a distinct possibility -- said he -- because "the international community is more and more concerned" -- that the Vietnamese war could well become World War Three.

As for his chances -- of winning the Republican nomination -- Romney conceding ~~not~~⁹ that Richard Nixon is -- as he put it: "The ~~Y~~ man who has more party support than anyone else" -- at this time. His own relatively low ~~position~~^{standing} -- said Romney -- because the news media have done "a superficial job" -- in reporting his views on Vietnam and other issues.

VIETNAM

War news from Vietnam tells today of some of the bloodiest fighting yet -- in nineteen days of battle in the Central Highlands. With American paratroopers losing more than a hundred and fifty men -- killed or wounded; in two days of futile assault -- on key Hill Eight~~7~~Eighty-Five.

The paratroopers later linking up with Army infantrymen -- perhaps for another assault. However, an errant bomb -- adding to the paratroopers troubles; landing in the midst of a clearing -- where wounded Americans were awaiting evacuation.

MOSCOW

Those four Navy seamen who jumped ship recently in Japan -- still the object of a nationwide search throughout that country; when they suddenly turned up tonight -- on Moscow television.

The presence of the four young sailors -- proof, said Tass, "that there are real Americans with a high sense of moral responsibility -- who are also against the war" in Vietnam. Later -- on their own -- the four Americans asking the Soviet people -- "to help them in the struggle for peace."

WASHINGTON

The United States currently stands at the brink of a health care crisis -- calling for a complete overhaul of our entire medical system. Says a report today from White House Advisory Commission -- its members including the president-elect of the American Medical Association.

Additional doctors, nurses and medical technicians are badly needed -- but "the crisis is not simply one of numbers" -- said the report. Going on to cite fifty -- count 'em -- fifty specific areas; where the medical profession supposedly needs a shot of "adrenalin" -- in the form of more money, more hospitals, improved medical procedures and so on.

First recommendation -- for a national standard of minimum requirements for ~~and~~ doctor's licenses. Second -- calling for periodic relicensing exams for doctors and others. To guarantee the American people "a basic standard of quality -- wherever they ~~and~~ might be when illness occurs" -- said the report.

SANAA

The fortunes of war -- all but impossible to predict; as proved again -- by this next from Yemen; telling of a Royalist ultimatum -- to Republican leaders virtually sealed up in their capital of Sanaa.

Just a few months ago -- you may recall -- it was the Republicans who seemed headed for certain victory. Due mainly to the support of some fifty thousand Egyptian troops -- equipped with the latest Russian-made ^{weapons} ~~снаряды~~.

Now -- the shoe is on the other foot. The Egyptian troops -- called back to defend their homeland -- against the possibility of renewed war with Israel. The Republican regime -- further split by internal dissension. With the Royalists today telling the Republicans to surrender at once -- or "face the consequences of an all-out Royalist attack on the capital."

NOW

A group called the National Organization for Women -- otherwise known as "NOW" -- currently meeting in Washington. Today's major "NOW" action -- the adoption of a "Bill of Rights for Women in Sixty-Eight." Calling for general equality of the sexes -- plus the freedom of abortion.

NOW leadership further telling American women -- the way to get what they want is through political power. Which means -- we are told -- the fair sex must refuse such menial tasks as stamp-licking and coffee-pouring; demanding, instead, more *important* ~~meaningful~~ jobs -- in next year's national election campaign.

SAIGON

Reverse side -- halfway round the world -- in Saigon; where there was a meeting today -- of some four hundred of the prettiest, shapeliest women in Vietnam.

These the celebrated B-girls, night club hostesses and so on -- who have made Saigon the Paris of the Orient. Up in arms over a threat by President Thieu -- to ban the mini-skirt. Also afraid that Thieu might close down the bars -- as did his predecessor, the late President Diem.

A spokesman for the group -- saying the girls must stick together. Or else they will be out of work -- said she -- and "maybe fall into a more depraved depression" -- whatever that might be.

SAN LUIS POTOSI

All of which leads up to this third and final item on woman-power -- from San Luis Potosi in Mexico; where a city detective by the name of Armando Rivera Rivas -- today filed for a divorce from his wife, Juana Gonzales de Viera.

The policeman calling it quits -- because, said he;

Verren:-

"I can't stand her beatings ^{me up} any more."

CENSUS

For the first time in four years as Chief Executive -- President Johnson was introduced today as "the leader of two hundred million Americans." The occasion -- a history-making ceremony at the U.S. Commerce Department; where a few minutes later, the government's official population clock ticked off the birth -- of American Number Two Hundred Million.

Now -- said the President -- "as we go from two hundred million Americans to three hundred million -- as we begin our third century of life" -- the one question remaining is this: "Shall we be a great nation?"

The answer -- he added -- in how the American people meet the "mighty challenges" -- that still face them. Above all -- said the President -- "we know that two races can live in the same country; but we have not seen yet -- that they can live together harmoniously and constructively" -- said he.