

Wed. Mar. 19 - '69,

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird  
tells it like it is, <sup>today</sup> ~~Painting~~ <sup>ed</sup> a rather stark picture of  
conditions in Vietnam - as <sup>a result of</sup> ~~he found them on~~ his recent  
trip there. Further <sup>indicating</sup> ~~predicting~~ it will take "an additional  
two years" - before the military situation can be brought  
under control. <sup>Hence</sup> ~~Coming to the conclusion~~ <sup>apparent</sup> it will not be  
possible to withdraw any American troops - until Hanoi also  
withdraws all its forces.

As for the current Red offensive - it "will be contained"  
- said Melvin Laird. Adding, however, there is no way as  
yet - "to prevent similar offensives in the future - at  
least, on an intermittent basis."

VIETNAM FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

Underscoring the Secretary's remarks - another major battle today on the <sup>great</sup> ~~famed~~ Michelin rubber plantation northwest of Saigon. With attacking U.S. tank columns - killing some three hundred of the enemy; ~~as against~~ American losses - called "light."

The <sup>to</sup> ~~giant~~ Michelin plantation - scene of countless engagements down through the years. <sup>Today there was an</sup> ~~This latest~~ ~~an~~ attempt to head off an expected ground attack against the South Vietnamese capital; and apparently - it worked. ~~At~~ the same time - additional U.S. troops were foiling another would-be ~~rocket~~ rocket attack on Saigon. ~~Although at Da Nang - a~~ ~~pre-dawn barrage killing at least ten - wounding some~~ ~~twenty.~~

## USURRI RIVER

Elsewhere in the Far East - another brief clash between Russian and R<sup>ed</sup> Chinese border guards. Fourth such ~~incident~~ - in recent weeks. According to Moscow - the Chinese suddenly opening fire across the frozen Usurri River - same as before. Still pressing their so-called "senseless claim" - to <sup>that</sup> disputed ~~Damansky~~ Island.

~~No mention of casualties - if any. However, the~~

<sup>The</sup> Kremlin saying: "Our troops gave a worthy reply." Adding:

"Now we know what the wind from the East carries us - the smell of gunpowder and the reek of flames."

## DACCA

The city of Dacca in East Pakistan - a virtual no man's land today. With mobs of students and workers - rampaging through the streets virtually unchecked. The protestors - at first - demanding autonomy for East Pakistan. Later, sacking and burning at will - with police seemingly powerless to cope with situation.

~~Meanwhile, at Karachi in West Pakistan - a special cabinet meeting today. The Federal government vowing to take - immediate "preventive and punitive" measures to quell the violence. *Thereby raising the threat - of* Threatening ~~apparently~~ another return to martial law.~~

## ANGUILLA

~~Excitement in the Caribbean. As you have doubtless~~  
heard by now <sup>That small</sup> ~~a~~ British invasion force today seized the  
tiny rebel island of Anguilla <sup>— one of the Lesser Antilles.</sup> "Operation Sheepskin" -  
as it was called - a bloodless occupation; stilling at  
least temporarily - the "mouse that roared like a lion."  
Restoring Anguilla - like it or not - to <sup>British</sup> ~~the three-island~~  
~~federation of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla~~ <sup>sovereignty</sup> - from which it had  
just declared its independence.

~~That done~~ <sup>then</sup> the British force ~~quickly~~ <sup>who told</sup> reinstalled  
Anthony Lee as resident commissioner, ~~The latter telling~~  
the island's six thousand inhabitants: "There will be  
British rule in Anguilla - until such time as you yourselves  
freely approve a different settlement." This in line with  
an earlier British pledge - to rid the island of "gangster-  
type elements;" ~~to~~ "end intimidation - ~~and~~ make it possible  
for the Anguillans to speak without fear."

LONDON FOLLOW ANGUILLA

~~Reaction in London indeed, around the world a~~  
~~charge that Britain was guilty of using "double standards."~~

*Said*  
As one Anguillan black ~~put it~~: "You came after us - why  
don't you go into Rhodesia."

~~However,~~ British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart -  
*termed*  
~~calling~~ the two cases "completely different." Only  
"the threat of force" - ~~sufficient~~ to bring Anguilla into  
line - said he. Adding that a similar use ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> force in  
Rhodesia - could ~~well~~ plunge all southern Africa into  
bloodshed.

WHITE HOUSE

U.S. "Boy of the Year" for Nineteen-Sixty - Nine -  
seventeen-year-old Perry Ludy of Oxnard, California. First  
Negro youth - ever so honored. Receiving his award from  
President Nixon - at a White House ceremony today.

Young Perry cited for "superlative service - to his  
home, church, school and community." He has also won all-  
California honors in track and basketball - for the past  
two years.

## HOLMENKOLLEN

We all have things we long to do and sometimes keep putting off until it's too late. I flew over to Norway where over the weekend I realized what had been a dream of mine for twenty or thirty years. You have all watched ski jumpers on TV, or on the newsreels, watched them come off that lofty tower, down what they call the in-run, and then go soaring into the air, as they lean far out over the tips of their skis.

The most famous jumping hill in the world is on a mountain above Oslo, capital of Norway. There each year they hold the classic jumping event - the Holmenkollen.

Along with the King of Norway, the Royal Family, all of the diplomatic Corps, Avery Brundage of The International committee, and around a hundred and twenty five thousand others, I at last was there at the Holmenkollen.

*Bernt Balchen of Arctic and Antarctic fame, was with me. Also Erling Strom, who was one of the first to conquer our Mt. McKinley.*

*This year we saw a Finn from Helsinki, a young chap in his early twenties named Topi Mattila, break the seventy-seven year Holmenkollen record. The Norwegians cheered him to the echo. I didn't hear a single Norwegian say he wished the new record had been made by one of his own countrymen. I was much impressed by the cheer they gave him, and the rather special encouragement they gave every foreigner who took part.*

*The previous world record at the Holmenkollen had been made - a year ago - by a young Norwegian who was there jumping again. But this time Bjorn Wirkula was even outjumped by an American, a youngster from Duluth - Greg Svor, who not only came in eighth out of*

the one hundred jumpers - most of whom were Scandinavians - but his competition also included jumpers from West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Japan, France and Italy. Young Greg, a teen-ager from Duluth, also won the junior championship, the second time in the seventy-seven years of the Holmenkollen for an American to do so.

Perhaps a bit more about this tomorrow.

At any rate, I wish you could have been in Oslo for this sports classic, which so far as skiing - jumping - is concerned even outranks the Olympics.

Are you a jumper, Warren?

CAIRO

From Cairo comes word today--that the Egyptian capital is getting ready to celebrate its one thousand anniversary. With July Sixth this year--the date set as the Cairo millennium.

Continuing Mideast tension--a factor, of course, in the preparations. However, the Egyptians vowing to carry on--come what may. Noting that Cairo has already survived--successive waves of Crusaders, Turks, French, British and so on--not to mention a close call from the Germans.

Indeed, German General ~~Erwin~~ <sup>had even</sup> Rommel ~~wired~~ ahead for hotel reservations--~~at one point~~ during World War Two. Only trouble--<sup>he forgot about</sup> General Montgomery <sup>(--who simply)</sup> refused to give ~~him the key to~~ <sup>him the key to</sup> ~~surrender~~ his room.