

L.T. - Buick, Fidler. Wed. Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> '65.

A major step toward the goal of a united American Protestant church <sup>was</sup> taken today at Lexington, Kentucky.

Delegates from six major Protestant denominations -- which have been engaged in exploratory talks for three years -- voting unanimously to draft a concrete plan of union. The merger plan to be presented to their joint Consultation on Church Union -- at its next scheduled meeting a year from now in Dallas, Texas.

The churches involved in today's decision -- including the Methodist ~~Church~~, the Episcopal ~~Church~~, the United Presbyterian ~~Church~~, the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ and the Evangelical United Brethren. Their proposed merger -- the most ambitious ever undertaken in U. S.

Protestantism. If achieved -- it would create a combined church with about twenty-two million members -- or nearly a third of all the Protestants in America.

Eighteen other interested denominations also urged to take part in the unity talks. And three Negro churches -- with a combined membership of two-and-a-half million -- quickly accepting the invitation.

## ICE

A Navy icebreaker steamed north from Boston today -- to help evacuate eighteen Arctic scientists -- drifting aimlessly in the Greenland Sea. The scientists stationed aboard ~~an~~ <sup>the</sup> ice island known as Arliss Eighty-eight -- used for years as a far-North weather and research center. But now drifting into warmer waters -- where it will soon begin to melt and break apart.

The Navy icebreaker scheduled to intercept Arliss Eighty-eight -- in about two weeks -- somewhere off the Eastern Coast of Greenland. Weather permitting -- the scientists will be evacuated by air. But should the weather close in -- the scientists to be packed aboard The Edisto -- along with all ~~of~~ their equipment -- for the long trip home.

## VIET NAM

A threat of Communist blackmail today -- in Viet Nam. The Red government in Hanoi -- warning that it will execute a captured U.S. aid official -- if a Communist terrorist held in Saigon -- is sentenced to death.

The American official -- Gustav Hertz -- of Leesburg, Virginia -- chief adviser to the U.S. Aid Mission in South Viet Nam, who disappeared two months ago -- while riding his motorbike in a Saigon suburb. North Viet Nam reporting today that he has been held all this time as a "spy" -- guilty of what the Communists call "bloody crimes."

As for the Viet Cong terrorist -- he's held in connection with that bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. Originally he was scheduled to go on trial today -- charged with an "act of terrorism;" punishable by death. However, the trial has been postponed -- until he recovers from stomach wounds incurred at the time of his arrest.



## PRESIDENT FOLLOW VIET NAM

Meanwhile, President Johnson, in Baltimore tonight -- will deliver a major speech on Viet Nam and Southeast Asia. Nine P.M. -- Eastern Standard Time -- to be broadcast.

The President is expected to underline -- the positive aspects of America's long-range policy in Southeast Asia -- once peace is restored. Whether he will mention the Hertz affair we don't know.

## BERLIN

The skies over West Berlin <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ ablaze with mock warfare today -- in scenes reminiscent of World War Two. Russian Mig fighters diving on the city -- and setting off sonic booms that rattled windows and sent pedestrians racing for cover. <sup>(The Migs at)</sup> ~~At~~ times -- firing blank cannon shells as well. <sup>Also</sup> ~~Then~~ buzzing the U.S. and British airfields in West Berlin -- at tree-top level.

The Russian aerial circus <sup>evidently an</sup> ~~a desperate~~ attempt to disrupt sessions of the West German Parliament -- meeting today in West Berlin for the first time in <sup>seven</sup> years. The Migs making at least twenty-five passes over the Parliamentary meeting hall -- during the first two hours of the session. So low at times -- that they appeared headed straight for open windows.

Meantime, Communist ground forces today established another blockade of land routes to the city -- for three ~~full~~ hours. With canal traffic -- similarly tied up. The United States, Britain and France -- again firing off identical protests to Moscow. But again -- to no avail.

## KLAN

Three of the four Ku Klux Klansmen -- arrested in the death of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo -- have been indicted by a Federal grand jury. The charge -- conspiracy to violate the Civil Rights of the Detroit mother of five. Punishable by ten years in prison -- a ten thousand dollar fine -- or both.

Mrs. Liuzzo -- gunned down by nightriders two weeks ago -- on a desolate stretch of highway between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. The three Klansmen -- who had been free on bail -- rearrested this morning in Birmingham. But freed again late today -- under the same amount of bail -- fifty thousand dollars apiece.

## EGYPT

From Cairo--capital of Egypt--a report today that Abdal Gamal Nasser--is having some sober second thoughts about his bitter quarrel with West Germany. Egypt still fully comitted to a break with the Bonn government--when it finally and officially established diplomatic relations with Israel.

But well-placed diplomatic sources now doubt--that Egypt will recognize East Germany as the one real Germany. Or that Nasser will carry out his threat to seize West German schools--and West German assets.



## NIXON

President Johnson was praised today as "a very able leader" -- and a man who "knows how to use power." The kind words coming from none other -- than former Vice President Richard M. Nixon -- on a brief visit to Copenhagen.

Nixon noting, however, that -- historically -- the President of the United States must be restrained somewhat by the opposition -- if the government is to stay healthy. And adding that at present -- "that restraint does not exist."

Nixon's solution to the dilemma -- straight to the point. The President's greatest need -- said he -- "more Republicans in Congress."



## FATHERS

In San Francisco today <sup>at</sup> ~~x~~ the thirteenth annual conference of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, ~~And from that meeting~~ <sup>it was</sup> a suggestion ~~ed~~ that more husbands should be present with their wives -- at the birth of their children.

Dr. Carl Goetsch -- of the University of California -- noting that a few hospitals now permit husbands to enter ~~the~~ delivery rooms -- along with their wives. But asserting that this should become the general rule -- rather than merely the exception.

Dr. Goetsch arguing that the husband's presence -- enables him to share with his wife -- "in one of the supreme moments of their lives." Adding that husbands make excellent <sup>— Dick —</sup> rooting sections. And besides -- said he -- "they hardly ever faint."

## BEATNIK

It would seem tonight that young Michael Chaplin is destined to remain a beatnik -- whether his family likes it or not. *Michael being*

~~You may recall~~ the nineteen-year-old son of ~~famed comedian~~ Charlie Chaplin -- disowned by his parents. Living in London on relief -- along with his wife and their infant son. The family feud erupting into headlines yesterday -- when Michael's mother urged him to stop being a "beatnik" -- to get a job and go to work."

~~So-~~ *So-* Michael Chaplin was signed today to his first movie contract. ~~But what will he~~ <sup>to</sup> play? You guessed it -- a Greenwich Village beatnik.