

L.T. COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

If there remained any doubt about U.S. resolve in Vietnam -- it was dispelled once and for all today; in the Congress of these United States -- under the dramatic and compelling presence of General Westmoreland; home briefly -- from his battle command.

The House chamber where he spoke -- resounded to a thunderous ovation at his first appearance. Assembled House and Senate members -- later interrupted his remarks nineteen times with more applause. And when he had said what he came to say -- a standing ovation said to rival the longest, loudest ever given a President.

Along the way -- General Westmoreland driving home these mainpoints:

One -- that the war in Vietnam is not "an internal

insurrection." "In three years of close study and daily observation" -- said General Westmoreland -- "I have seen much evidence to the contrary -- documented by the enemy himself -- that it simply is aggression from the north."

Two -- that the enemy's chief weapon is terror. "Murder, mutilation, abduction and the deliberate shelling of innocent men, women and children" -- these are the means by which the Viet Cong seek "to exercise control through fear" -- said the General.

Three -- that American bombing raids in the North -- are an absolute necessity because of Viet Cong activities in the South, where "for years" -- said he -- "the enemy has been blowing bridges, interrupting traffic, cutting roads, sabotaging power lines, blocking canals and attacking air fields."

And four -- to wit: "the only strategy to defeat such an enemy -- is one of unrelenting but discriminating military political and psychological pressure on his whole structure --

at all levels."

In conclusion -- this from the U.S. Commander in Vietnam. "Backed at home by resolve, confidence, patience, determination and continued support" -- said he -- "we will prevail in Vietnam over Communist aggression."

Congress -- obviously in overwhelming agreement.

Senator Fulbright -- for one -- conceding that it was a good speech -- and that he agreed with most of it. More important --the Senator adding that some of our "finest young men in the world" -- are fighting for the United States in Vietnam; and "I'm glad" -- said he -- that the General "recognized we are behind them."

Pope

While General Westmoreland was speaking to Congress-- another message of historic importance today--from the Vatican in Rome. Pope Paul in an extremely candid statement--to the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

The Pope calling current Ecumenical efforts-- a sort of "prelude of final harmony." Adding, however, that the Papacy itself--is "the most serious obstacle" in the path of ever achieving Christian unity. This an obvious reference to refusal by Protestants--to accept the Catholic dogma of Papal infallibility.

What does the Pope plan to do about it? Nothing-- publicly. The Pontiff saying that rather than apologize for the Papacy--he prefers "for now--to remain silent and to pray."

HOUSTON

Cassius Clay -- today refused twice to take the oath -- that would have put him in the U.S. Army. Walking out of a Houston induction center -- making himself liable for prosecution as a draft evader.

Through it all -- Clay remaining strangely silent; strangely for him. At the end passing out a prepared statement; asserting "I insist upon my right to pursue my livelihood -- in accordance with the same rights granted to other men and women -- who have disagreed with the policies of whatever administration was in power at the time."

Clay adding that he's looking forward to his next title defense. But that, too, will probably be in the courts. The New York State Athletic Commission -- already having revoked both his boxing license and recognition of his title; and the World Boxing Association -- expected soon to follow suit.

VIETNAM

Meanwhile, American Marines were in the fourth day of a fierce battle -- for control of a key hill; commanding approaches from Laos -- and also North Vietnam.

In response to a call American jets blasting the hill with bombs and napalm -- to strip the enemy of protective cover; difficult because they are in caves and tunnels.

NAPLES

At Naples, Florida -- Doctor Carl Coppolino was found guilty today -- of murder in the second degree; and immediately sentenced to life imprisonment -- for the slaying of his first wife, Carmella.

The verdict -- a bitter blow to Coppolino -- who was quickly hustled off to jail. Also to his attorney -- famed criminal lawyer F. Lee Bailey -- who had successfully defended the doctor in an earlier murder case. Defense counsel calling the verdict -- "completely inconsistent" with the facts.

The jury took only three hours -- to render a decision, and all were agreed on second degree, with "no compromise" -- said the foreman.

From Loch Ness, Scotland -- a progress report today on preparations for an all-out search set to begin in two weeks. A scientific, electronic, photographic search -- to find that "Loch Ness Monster."

High speed cameras -- directed by sonar and radar, are now being installed -- on static observation stations; also three mobile cameras; as well as high speed "chase" boat -- with a silent, electric engine. The hunters also equipped with ancient cross bows; silent weapons with arrows or "bolts" -- capable of piecing a suit of armor. Not to kill the "Monoster" -- but rather to implant a tiny transmitter under his skin; to permit later tracking -- when and if it is ever spotted.

All this -- financed officially by the International Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. With Bureau officials promising that if they fail again to find the "Monster" -- they will turn the entire matter over to

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psychologists; on the theory -- that hundreds of "Monster"
sightings in recent years -- were nothing more than
recurrent hallucinations. And then come over here and
solve our flying saucer puzzle for us, Warren!

WRIGHT-PATTERSON

Nearly half a century late and formal recognition at last, for seventy-three-year-old Steve Thompson -- of Dayton, Ohio, as the first American pilot ever to down an enemy plane.

Thompson's "first" -- a German Albatross in air combat over France; in February -- nineteen-eighteen.

Of course there were many before that -- by American flying with the French and English. But this the first -- by an American pilot in an American uniform.

Records on it were some how lost; 'til last fall -- when the proof was found in the archives of the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Field near Dayton. And there it was -- that Steve Thompson was finally honored for his aerial feat so long ago.

His reaction: "Never thought I'd get it" -- said Steve. And so long until Monday.

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