

April 11, 1968
Aspen, Colorado

(original lost - taken from
"The voice of freedom - speaks again." So said//carbon)

President Johnson today - as he signed into law the just-passed Civil Rights Act of Nineteen-Sixty-Eight. The President adding that "open housing for all - all human beings that live in this country - is now a part of the American way of life."

The President also referring to the murder of Martin Luther King - followed by looting and burning. Asserting that the "Only road to progress - is through the process of law." A process he urged Congress to speed along - through passage of some Seventy-Billion in major domestic programs still pending.

CAPE KENNEDY

From Cape Kennedy -- a post-mortem today on that ill-fated Saturn-Five moon-shoot of last week. U.S. space officials laying a part of the blame -- to crossed wires.

Another part -- to a leaky fuel line. But ~~what caused~~

~~The basic source of the rocket's worst difficulties -- the wires to cross and what caused the fuel line to leak~~

-- that remains a mystery. Calling for a possible third unmanned test of the Saturn launch vehicle -- before it is deemed safe enough for astronauts.

PENTAGON

While the dialogue continues -- so does the war.

Forcing an additional call-up today -- of nearly twenty-five thousand Army, Navy and Air Force reservists. About ten thousand of these -- destined for service in Vietnam -- said Defense Secretary Clark Clifford. Raising total U.S. ^{Troop-strength} ~~troops~~ in that part of the world -- to a new high of about five hundred and fifty thousand men.

At the same time -- Clifford asserting that enemy troops starting ^{led} pulling out of Khe Sanh -- fully a month ago. Not because of any de-escalation -- rather because of massive U.S. air and artillery strikes -- said he. Adding that enemy positions were "increasingly untenable" -- because they were "in the process of being destroyed."

LANCASTER

Here's one -- a point of law -- from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Where convicted murder^{er} Rance Lee Via -- is currently trying to get a new trial. Charging that police who captured him authorized an illegal search of his person -- "without warrant and court order." Thereby obtaining evidence later used against him -- in alleged violation of his Constitutional rights.

In light of recent Supreme Court rulings -- an open and shut case; *S* or so it would seem ~~--- save~~ for the following: The so-called "search" -- was performed by doctors; the evidence they found -- a number of bullets from the *g*un of a policeman. The same policeman -- Via was convicted of killing.

A legitimate beef -- or "a mockery of justice" -- as police claim? We'll just have to wait and see.

TOBA

From Toba, Japan, comes a story today -- of saving face, American-style. With a group of visiting U.S. governors dining on sukiyaki -- a Japanese beef dish. When host-Governor Satoru Tanaka boasted that the best beef in the world -- comes from local Matsuzaka cattle.

Governor Boe of South Dakota -- who was closest at hand -- agreeing diplomatically that the beef was wonderful. Governor Samuelson of Idaho -- another major cattle-producing state -- also admitting that the sukiyaki was excellent. Except that the meal -- seemed to lack a certain something -- said he.

With that -- the Governor of Idaho passing out souvenir lapel pins to one and all. Each in the shape -- of an Idaho potatoe.

POLITICS

Turning to politics ~~here at home~~ -- the name Huber^J
Humphrey looms larger than ever in the Democratic race.
Senator Mondale of the Vice President's home state --
Minnesota -- today announcing formation of a new campaign
committee -- "United Democrats for Humphrey." Honorary
chairman -- Harry S. Truman.

Elsewhere in Washington -- retiring Postmaster General
Lawrence O'Brien was indicating today -- he will become
a top Kennedy campaign strategist; perhaps -- within the
next few days. He needs the time -- said he -- "to resolve
some personal matters." One of these -- obviously -- his
pending departure from the Johnson Administration.

WHITE HOUSE

On the bumpy road to peace - another delaying detour today. North Vietnam suggesting Warsaw - as a possible site for preliminary talks. Only to draw a tentative "thumbs down" - from President Johnson.

White House Press Secretary George Christian - quoting the President as saying we would prefer - "a neutral atmosphere - fair to both sides." This an apparent reference to the fact that Poland - has openly helped to supply the North Vietnamese war machine.

Christian further nothing that first word of Hanoi's choice - had come from the Soviet news agency Tass. Adding that the "United States has proposed a number of neutral sites" - on which we have heard nothing as yet. Christian ending with the admonition that ~~Y~~ those acting in good faith - will not seek to make this a matter of propaganda."

BELL

Fitting, final dateline for tonight -- Bell, California. Where a thirty-eight-year-old widow by the name of Margaret Smith -- will be married tomorrow night to a Texas oil driller by the name of Miniford ^g McCoy. With Mrs. Smith's three teen-age daughters -- sharing simultaneously in the family joy. Rachel -- nineteen -- Laura -- eighteen -- and Edna -- sixteen -- getting married at the same time; to three sailors from the U.S. Navy Destroyer Maddox -- just returned from the Pacific.

The four "belles" of Bell, California -- chiming together for four double-ring ceremonies. So ask not for whom the bell tolls -- it tolls for everybody.

WARSAW

Speaking of Warsaw -- as I was a moment ago -- that city still in a state of ferment today. With the election of Defense Minister Marian Spychalski -- as new President ^{Communist} of Poland; followed quickly by the firing of three Cabinet ministers -- ^{from} key economic posts. The new improved Polish regime thus continuing a major government purge -- sparked by those ^{Sudden} ~~spontaneous~~ demonstrations of last month.

less. Dubcek adding that Czech "journalists have a tremendous responsibility" -- to "avoid shortcomings and one-sidedness."

The same time here, I might add.

PRAGUE FOLLOW WARSAW

At Prague in nearby Communist Czechoslovakia -- that country's new reform government was complaining today about....well, I guess you'd have to call it -- a "credibility gap." The message -- aimed at the newly-uncensored Czech press; accused of abusing its freedom -- by spreading, quote, "unconfirmed matters and half-truths."

This -- according to Party Chieftain Alexander Dubcek, less. Dubcek adding that Czech "journalists have a tremendous responsibility" -- to "avoid shortoomings and one-sidedness."

The same True here, I might add.

SAIGON FOLLOW PENTAGON

Clifford's contention apparently borne out -- by latest casualty figures reported today from Saigon. Enemy losses for the past week -- set at two thousand, two hundred and ~~fifty~~ ^{fifty} ~~thirty~~-one dead. Many of them said to be victims of that successful American push -- to lift the siege at Khe Sanh.

This compares with American losses -- set at two hundred and seventy-nine men. However, the U.S. casualty toll also including -- some three thousand wounded. Perhaps a better gauge -- we are told -- of the scope and range of the enemy's harrassing tactics.

NEW YORK FOLLOW POLITICS

On the Republican side -- a double-barreled thrust today for Governor Rockefeller of New York. In Washington -- Senator Morton of Kentucky announcing that "nineteen or twenty" of the nation's twenty-six Republican governors -- are now solidly in the Rockefeller camp. In New York City -- the governor himself reaffirming his availability for the Republican nomination. "I am available" -- said he -- "if the party wants ^{an} alternative." Rockefeller adding: "I think I ^Could win."