

L. T. OLDS, FISHER. WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 1964

(Prescott Robinson substituting)

VIET NAM

The chief conclusion drawn by Robert McNamara during his trip to Saigon - is this. The war against the Communist guerrillas - is going to be a long one. Probably lasting - from five to ten years. And so we had better be prepared for a long haul. No illusions about a quick victory.

But the American Secretary of Defense was not pessimistic - during his news conference at the Saigon airport. He explicitly defended - the loyalist Vietnamese Army. And - the civil administrators who work in the jungle villages. Men and strategy both good said Secretary McNamara.

As for the question of equipment - the Pentagon has an answer to that. The announcement that a new

fleet of planes - will arrive in South Viet Nam next month. Douglas Skyraiders, designed for the tough work of supporting ground forces in jungle warfare.

Secretary of the Army Zuckert gave this information - to the House Armed Services Committee. A response to charges that the Americans in South Viet Nam - are using inferior equipment.

ETNA

The latest eruption of Mount Etna on Sicily - is not just a repetition of what has happened so often in the past. Not just another case of the historic volcano - blowing its top. The pressure this time is greater than any recorded in the twentieth century - according to the volcanologists at the University of Catania.

The thrust upward from the base of Mount Etna, so tremendous - that the crater has cracked in three places. Three new openings - from which molten lava is pouring. And red hot ash, floating down like a suffocating blanket - over the surrounding countryside. A column of dense black smoke - towering into the sky.

The lava is moving down the slopes - at the rate of six feet an hour. Fast enough to be dangerous if it keeps up. That's why a detachment of carabinieri have been assigned - to keep an eye on this natural phenomenon. However, the danger from Etna - the

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*the Sicilian fire mountain tonight is somewhat
diminished.*

PANAMA

The situation in Panama is this. The Panamanians have a president elect - Marco Robles. They also have a disgruntled loser - Arnulfo Arias. Which means - in Panamanian politics - that a collision between the two may be in the making. If - Arias can muster enough support behind his charge of "scandalous fraud."

Anyway, Robles definitely has - the votes. A majority - of some ten thousand. He's preparing to take over the government in Panama city. And presumably begin negotiating with Washington - on the subject of the Panama Canal.

I. D. A.

President Johnson's Foreign Aid Program got a strong shot in the arm today.

The house of Representatives by a voice vote passed a bill approving an added three hundred and twelve million dollar contribution - to the International Development Association.

The House - reversing its previous vote, which turned thumbs down - on the bill.

The bill will allow the I.D.A. to give aid to developing countries through the World Bank in the form of loans.

PRIMARY

Two Republican groups are in Omaha tonight - and celebrating. To wit - the backers of Barry Goldwater and Richard Nixon.

You all know how it happens - that both are claiming victory. Senator Goldwater got just under half the votes - of Nebraska Republicans. And believes that he'll have the support of most of the Cornhusker delegates - to the G.O.P. Convention. So his side feels - that there's good reason to celebrate.

Richard Nixon attracted - only thirty-one per cent of the votes. But the word "only" is deceptive. Because Nixon's name - was not on the ballot. The voters - had to write it in. That's why one Nixon man in Omaha calls the Nebraska primary "the beginning of the Nixon surge."

The other Republics write-ins are taking consolation from the fact - that they were just that. They claim that the real test is still to come - in

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Oregon. Where - all the names will be on the ballot.
Goldwater, Nixon, Lodge, Rockefeller, Scranton - and
Margaret Chase Smith, the lady from Maine who wants
to be President.

WYNYARD

Diana Wynyard, one of Britain's greatest actresses, and a top Hollywood star of the 1930's, died today in London, of a kidney ailment. She was 58.

Miss Wynyard had been married to film director Carol Reed, and to Tibor Castro. Both marriages ended in divorce.

MOONSHINE

Life is becoming more rugged for the moonshiners of the Great Smokies and the Cumberlands - now that the revenooers have discovered atomic science. In the old days you could set up a still, turn out mountain dew - and be ready to decamp as soon as your hound dog began to howl. Once the stuff was sold - who was to say where it was made?

Unfortunately, the Bureau of Internal Revenue heard about - "atomic fingerprints." The fact that every substance - has a unique place on the nuclear chart.. Including - moonshine. The revenooers inspected the "atomic fingerprints" - of a shipment of the stuff that reached New York. And they traced it back - to a still in the hills of Georgia.

The Bureau says - this will be standard operating procedure from now on. Caught by modern science - an oldtimer of the backwoods. The moonshiner

MERMAID

This is the story of - the mermaid and the Viking.

The mermaid - Copenhagen's famous "little mermaid." Who usually watches over the city's harbor - from her rock. But who has had her head chopped off - by some unknown attacker. And is now undergoing metallurgical surgery - to have it replaced.

The Viking - an abstract iron figure by some unknown sculpter. A Viking who has been set on the Mermaid's rock - during her absence. Presumably by Jokesters - who the Copenhagen police would like to meet. They don't care for - the Viking. They prefer the mermaid.

SPACE

At White Sands, New Mexico, they're talking about - "space life insurance." The "life" being that of an astronaut - whose booster rocket blows up. The "insurance" - the escape rocket designed to go into action if that happens.

Five of our astronauts were at White Sands today - for a demonstration of what they may go through for real. A booster rocket, carrying a dummy space capsule - to an altitude of twenty-one thousand feet. At which point - the booster was deliberately blown up.

Simultaneously, the escape rocket - came to life. And hurled the capsule - away from the explosion. Letting it float back to earth - by parachute.

If an astronaut had been inside the capsule - he would have survived.

"Space life insurance" - in action.