

December 28, 1965  
Dallas Townsend  
(taken from carbon -  
original script misplaced)

**DRAFT**

A Selective Service official in Washington says that young men, who join the Peace Corps or sign as volunteers in the Federal War on Poverty, are eligible for deferment from the military draft. However, those receiving instruction under the Federal Job-Training program are eligible for induction into the services, if they meet the physical and mental standards set for draftees. Volunteers for the Peace Corps and the War on Poverty have occupations which are considered vital to the national interest.

## **GIFTS**

*Just before Christmas Day in Memphis, Tennessee, David War - a thirteen-year-old delivery boy - heard about an elderly blind woman who had never had a Christmas tree in her home. So young David decided to take her one as a Yuletide gift. But while he was inside her home delivering the tree, somebody stole his bicycle. The story soon became known and David began receiving checks, money orders and gifts from all parts of the United States and even from as far away as Japan. Seven hundred dollars in all, and David says the money is going toward his college education.*

## REFUND

Memphis, it seems is full of the Christmas spirit this season. A department store there says it has given a Christmas shopper a four-dollar-and-seventy-six cents refund on gifts that were purchased thirty-seven years ago! Mrs. Ina Hardon wrote the store about a refund she was supposed to have received back in Nineteen-Twenty-Eight but never came through. A check of the records showed that Mrs. Hardon is a classic example of the customer who is always right.

## **INSTALLMENTS**

**The great American institution of installment buying is growing by leaps and bounds. This year, the installment obligations of Americans passed the sixty-BILLION-dollar mark - and if this amount were divided equally, each of us would be stuck for three-hundred-and-sixteen dollars. In the past ten years, total income rose forty-per-cent - but the installment debt has increased by almost one hundred per cent. Eighty years ago, the American humorist Artemus Ward, put it this way: "Let us all be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow money to do it."**

## **PRISONER**

**They all laughed last week in the country jail at Edwardsville, Illinois, when one of the prisoners - Frederick Kingsley - sent a Christmas card to President Johnson. But the laughing stopped today when Kingsley received one in return. The card bore the Presidential seal and the words - "thank you for your holiday greeting, and best wishes for happiness in the New Year." It also carried the embossed signature of President and Mrs. Johnson.**

## **FANFANI**

*The Italian government is facing a political crisis tonight because of the resignation of Foreign Minister Amintore Fanfani. Premier Aldo Moro is refusing to accept the m resignation, but Fanfani says its "irrevocable." He gave as his reason for quitting, "the unjust and unfounded" criticism of his role in the recent Vietnamese "peace feeler" which the Hanoi government later called a hoax. Fanfani had transmitted to President Johnson the details of peace overtures which were supposed to have been made through an Italian visitor to Hanoi. Fanfani also says his own wife complicated things by meddling in the publicity given the matter. Fanfani's resignation has no effect on his current status as President of the United Nations General Assembly.*

## **VIETNAMESE**

*The Viet Cong Communists announced today that they would cease firing against South Vietnamese forces during the Vietnamese lunar New Year holiday which extends from January Twentieth to the Twenty-Fourth. But the truce offer was not made to Americans or other allied troops in Vietnam. The ceasefire proposal came in a radio broadcast, shortly after Communist forces launched two large-scale attacks against South Vietnamese troops along the Cambodian border. Government forces turned back both assaults, with at least fifty Viet Cong reported killed. The lull in American air raids against North Vietnam entered its fifth day, but the Hanoi government is showing NO signs of making any definite peace moves because of the pause in bombing attacks.*

**JOHNSON**

**President Johnson met with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara at the Texas White House today and reviewed the rising financial cost of the war. In view of the growing strategic and financial problems, the President is considering a plan to ask Congress to extend the deadline for submitting the Nineteen-Sixty-Six budget. Without an extension, the law requires him to submit the new budget to Congress fifteen days after it convenes on January Tenth.**



## TRUMAN

Former President Harry Truman, a holiday visitor in New York, says the current visit of three Americans to North Vietnam is "a publicity stunt" and suggested that they be prosecuted. He told reporters that the penitentiary would surely be the reward given Professor Staughton Lynd of Yale University - Thomas Hayden, a left-wing student leader - and Herbert Aptheker, a Communist writer. They claim their trip to Hanoi is to "clarify the other side's approach to peace," as they put it. In Washington, the State Department is withholding an opinion on whether the trio broke any U.S. laws or regulations in making the trip. A spokesman says the three men have passports which are NOT validated for travel to North Vietnam.

## **HARRIS**

**The Chairman of the House Commerce Committee -**

**Oren Harris of Arkansas - says he will give up his Congressional seat on February Third and begin serving as a Federal Judge - a post that has been waiting for him since last summer.**

**His decision was against the wishes of the Arkansas**

**Democratic leaders who believe his resignation could touch off a wild political scramble for the Congressional seat he**

**has held for a quarter of a century. President Johnson**

**nominated Harris to the Federal Judgeship last July and the**

**Senate gave its confirmation shortly afterwards.**

## **TRIAL**

**A former newspaper publisher in the Middle East -  
Mustafa Amin - went on trial for his life today in Cairo -  
on charges of spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence  
Agency. The Fifty-one-year-old publisher - widely known for  
his pro-Western and anti-Communist sentiments - was  
indicated last July on four charges of spying and illegal  
currency dealings. He pleaded innocent to the spy charges,  
but entered a plea of guilty in the currency dealings.**

## **DELEGATION**

*It was announced in Moscow tonight that a top-level Soviet delegation will soon go to the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi for an official visit. The Tass news agency says the group will be headed by Alexander Shelepin, Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. He is regarded as one of the most powerful men in Russia as a result of his recent promotion in a reshuffle on top government jobs. The Tass announcement gave NO precise date for the delegation's visit, but said it will be made at the invitation of the Vietnamese Workers Party and the North Vietnamese government.*