

CHICAGO


Fri. Mar. 29 - '68,

Fire in Chicago. Three blazes occurring almost simultaneously today - on the city's famed department store row. At Carson Pirie Scott - at Montgomery Ward - at Weibold's department store. Turning busy State Street ~~into~~ into a near pandemonium of racing fire engines - screaming shoppers - and ^{the curious,} ~~just plain rubber neckers.~~

At first - police fearing an arson plot. Later investigation said to show though - that at least two and maybe all three of the blazes were entirely accidental. Chicago Mayor James Richard Daley further telling a hurried news conference -- there was "no evidence at all" of any conspiracy. Just an amazing coincidence - or so we are told.

MEMPHIS

The morning after in Memphis - a bitter dawn today,
Marked by beatings - looting - shooting - firebombing,
With police and national guardsmen -- finally forced to
seal off historic Beale Street. Trying to confine the
violence - within the boundaries of the negro ^{sections} ~~districts~~
of the city. Fire ^{and} police Director Frank Holloman asserting:
"We are at war in Memphis."



ADD MEMPHIS

~~Dr.~~ Martin Luther King later replying: "Riots
are here - riots are part of the ugly atmosphere of our
society now."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW MEMPHIS

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In the nation's capital - where Dr. King is soon to lead a so-called "poor people's march" - reaction ~~has~~ was swift, ~~and almost unpredictable~~. Senator Byrd of West Virginia and Senator Stennis of Mississippi - urging federal steps to block the planned demonstration. Both warning in Senate speeches - that Dr. King could "build a powder keg" in Washington.

Senator Brooke of Massachusetts - himself a negro - also expressing fears that Dr. King will be unable to control the "irresponsible." ^{SUN} Brooke adding: "I don't believe that riots and looting like we had in Memphis - will serve the cause of civil rights."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW MEMPHIS

Much the same sentiment - from the White House;
where President Johnson quoted today ~~from~~ from Abraham
Lincoln -- who said: "If our country is to ~~survive~~ survive
- we must all realize that there is no grievance that is
~~not~~ a fit object of redress by mob law." LBJ adding -
it was true ~~was~~ then; and it is just "as true in Nineteen
sixty-eight!" ~~said he.~~

ADD WHITE HOUSE

Later the President issued a special statement -
~~on~~ on, quote, "the tragedy of Memphis." Calling
racial violence - a "grave peril." Further urging
"local law enforcement to deal firmly - but always fairly
and without fear - with every infraction of law; to work
unceasingly to prevent riots -- and to train diligently
to control them ~~to control them~~ should they occur."

VIETNAM

War news from Vietnam - marked today by a growing concern over that missing F-One Eleven A. Air Force officials hoping against hope that the new supersecret aircraft has not fallen into Communist hands. Officers noting that the F One Eleven A - is now the most advanced U S warplane at operational readiness; most advanced in electronics - aerodynamics - bombing systems. In other words - a potential gold mine of military intelligence - if its built-in destructors failed to work properly.

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~~Meanwhile, at Vientiane in neighboring Laos - U S officials today released three North Vietnamese Navy men -- prisoners of war. Hoping to promote more such prisoner & exchanges -- and perhaps to free an estimated two hundred American fliers still held by Hanoi.~~

MOSCOW

With Czechoslovakia ^{seemingly} bursting its bonds - Romania straining at the leash - Poland rife for revolt -- the Kremlin ~~has~~ was finally forced to sit up and take notice today. Soviet Party Chief Brezhnev sounding a danger cry -- to Russia's Communist allies in Eastern Europe. Warning that "the Imperialists" - as he called them - "are trying to weaken the ideological-political unity of the Socialist countries." Trying to do it - said he - "by relying mainly on revisionist and nationalist elements."

At the same time - Brezhnev also taking note of recent protest at home ^{Warning} Soviet citizens that those enticed by alien ideology - "will not go unpunished."

VATICAN

At the Vatican ~~in Rome~~ - the end of an era.

Pope Paul today abolishing the Papal court - firing all its retainers - including Rome's fabled "black nobility"; in the first sweeping reform of the papal household -- since the Middle Ages. The move eliminating costly and showy frills ~~frills~~ that have long proved an embarrassment to many of the faithful.

Indeed, the Pope saying his action was taken - ~~it~~ in keeping with the wishes of ~~the~~^{the} recent ecumenical council and world opinion. An attempt - said he - to underline ^{the} "essentially spiritual mission of the Roman pontiff."

DAYTON

From Wright-Patterson Field at Dayton, Ohio, comes news today - of a new twist in helicopters. The Air Force experimenting with techniques - for towing the whirlybirds from fixed-wing aircraft.

In practice = the plan calling for a mid-air hook-up, with the helicopter attaching itself to a special boom - lowered from the belly of the mother ship. Once secure - the chopper supposedly ready for high-speed transport over a distance of hundreds of miles, and back again -- if necessary.

Assuming it works out - a tremendous advance in air rescue service. Making helicopters available for emergency duty - practically anywhere on the face of the earth.

SEARCH

Wanted: J. K. Haviland. Age - about forty-five or so. When last seen - wearing a black leather jacket, helmet and goggles. In his manner of speech - just the trace of a British accent.

This the bulletin flashed today - from the British Embassy in Washington. The missing J. K. Haviland -- an American, one of the last survivors of Britain's famed Eagle Squadron -- who fought so valiantly in the battle of Britain, of whom Winston Churchill said: "Never in the field of human conflict - was so much owed by so many to so few". Wanted now to attend an R.A.F. Fiftieth Anniversary party - scheduled for Monday night in Washington.

Hard to believe - but only two of those early Eagles still left. The other - Captain William Taylor - an American airlines executive -- who ~~has~~^{is} already ~~promised~~^{set} to attend. Now the search for J. K. Haviland -- one of the "fewest of the few."

NEW YORK

At New York's St. John's hospital - a Hollywood type send-off today for film star Cary Grant. Nurses, nuns and newsmen - surrounding the recent accident victim; as he walked out the door ~~and~~ holding the hand of hospital Administrator Sister Thomas Frances.

In a brief curbside statement - the movie idol ^{saying!} ~~asserting~~ "If you're going to have an accident - this is the place for it." Then, a kiss on the cheek - for Sister Thomas Frances; and off he went in a waiting car - to the accompaniment of popping flashbulbs.

P. S. Now it can be told: Cary Grant's hospital code name -- Count Bezok. Which reminds me, Warren - it's that time again. So wherever you be -- "zok" it to me, kid. ~~(PIN) the fact that he's just becoming a nationwide~~
~~crisis, via the Rowan and Martin TV show.~~

MIAMI

Talk about embarrassing moments - here's one --
reported today from Miami. A thirteen year old boy --
taking tennis lessons on the sun roof ~~of~~ ^{at the} Ponce de
Leon Junior High School, when a stray ball bounced
onto a ~~nearby~~ ^{near} plastic skylight - and he raced over to
retrieve it.

Only trouble - the plastic wasn't strong enough.
The boy tumbling feet first through the skylight --
into a shower room filled with screaming girls. End ^{of} item.
^

W.S.