

L.T. Ruick, Fisher. Wed. Apr. 6th '66.

JERUSALEM

From Jerusalem ~~in the Holy Land~~ -- news today of a tremendous influx of pilgrims and tourists. The city's ancient streets -- jammed with Catholics and Protestants from America and Western Europe. Along with Copts from Egypt -- Abyssinians from Ethiopia -- Maronites from Lebanon -- Assyrians from Syria -- and Eastern Orthodox from Eastern Europe.

This because Eastern and Western dates for Easter coincide this year -- for the first time since nineteen-sixty-three.

Additionally, thousands of Moslems -- among the milling throngs. Arab travelers returning home by way of Jerusalem -- from their annual ^{il}prigrimage to Mecca. For Jerusalem -- is a holy city to Moslems as well. According to legend, its fabled ~~golden~~ Dome of the ^{Mosque} Rock -- marking the spot of the Prophet Mohammed's ascension to Heaven.

Before it's over -- an all-time high of anywhere from

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a half-to-three-quarters of a million people -- expected to visit the holy city this holiday season. A number equal to nearly half the total ^{population} ~~population~~ of Jordan -- through which most of them will pass.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- embattled Premier Ky agreed today -- to pull his Marines out of rebellious Da Nang; -- and call a special conference in Saigon -- to pave the way for return to civilian rule. This in hopes of resolving the political crisis in Viet Nam -- without bloodshed.

But Buddhists who oppose him, were -- boycotting the conference and still, apparently, bent on nothing less than total overthrow of the government. As a result -- Buddhist-propelled mobs were raging through the streets of the capital -- for the third straight day; held in check -- only by armed paratroopers, who fired over the mob at one point -- to break it up.

Meanwhile, from Washington: A State Department report that Premier Ky will probably call a "National Political Congress" -- within a week or ten days; to select a representative council including anti-government leaders -- to draft a new Constitution.

DRAFT

Here at home -- the draft call for June -- cut by more than half today. That is from the original request for induction of nearly thirty-five thousand men -- this now a call for only fifteen thousand.

The cutback attributed to an expected increase in voluntary enlistments -- at the end of the school year. - Which means that college students will probably be exempt from the draft -- at least through September.

TAXES

In Congress -- House Republicans went on record today -- as flatly opposed to a tax increase to meet the threat of inflation. The Republicans demanding instead -- an immediate cut in government spending; for the following reasons:

One -- because every dollar cut from Federal spending -- would be a dollar less of inflationary pressure. Two -- because the government cannot effectively persuade private industry to reduce spending -- unless it does the same. And three -- because a tax increase is not likely to produce fiscal restraint in any case.

VOTE FOLLOW TAXES

Still -- the Republican were voted down a few hours later; when they attempted to cut a flat five per cent -- from a major Administration appropriation bill.

This by a vote of nearly two-to-one. The measure as later passed -- providing more than a billion dollars for use by the Interior Department for the care and management of Indians, parks, forests, artists, birds, mining, fishing and desalting water.

SHOWDOWN

France and West Germany seem headed for showdown; on the question of what to do with French forces -- currently stationed in Germany.

According to DeGaulle -- they are occupation troops -- there to stay as long as he sees fit.

By contrast -- West Germany today declaring that French troops can remain in Germany -- only if assigned a specific NATO responsibility. And then only if they agree to work in close cooperation -- with other NATO members.

The declaration -- first official statement of the German stand. Thus setting the stage for high-level French and German talks -- two weeks hence.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations -- a rare press conference held today by Secretary General U Thant, in a new bid for peace in Viet Nam.

The plan for creation -- of a unified, neutralized Viet Nam -- with its independence guaranteed by the world's great powers -- including the United States and Red China.

U Thant frankly admitting, however, that he sees "no possibility" of peace in Viet Nam -- "for the moment," at least.

In later remarks -- the Secretary General contending that regional organizations -- such as NATO, SEATO, CENTO and the Warsaw alliance -- may have become outdated in the light of changing world conditions. He added that if Indonesia should ever wish to rejoin the U.N. -- the world body "would be delighted to take her back."

INDONESIA FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

Meanwhile in Indonesia they were having a quiet demonstration today. For variety.

Thousands of students from the University of Jakarta -- marching peacefully to the home of military strongman General Suharto, where they delivered a lengthy petition -- calling for a return to Constitutional government. After which they marched right back to where they came from.

Arch anti-Communist leader General Nasution is calling for free elections in Indonesia within three years, with seats in the meantime-- seats formerly held by Communists -- to be filled by students and so-called "progressive" youth.

SOVIETS

Nikita Khrushchev, the little man who wasn't there, and yet the chief topic of conversation once again -- at that Moscow Soviet Party Congress.

Nikolai Baibakov, the Kremlin's top planner, reporting today that Russia's economic growth rate -- has slipped almost two per cent over the past five years; from a phenomenal eight-point-two per cent a year in the fifties -- to only six per cent of late. And the reason -- Khrushchev.

Poor old Nikita -- who was charged yesterday with "errors, miscalculations and amateurism" -- cited today for bumbling "subjectivism". Resulting -- we're told -- in "a decline in the efficiency of Russian social production."

ACCIDENT

A tragic auto accident today at Aurora, Illinois -- or so it seemed, at first; when a runaway car -- smashed through the side of a private home; into the bedroom of little Ken Nolan -- age two. Shattering his bed, in which he was sleeping -- burying the room in debris.

Parents and passers-by -- frantically digging through the rubble -- fearing the worst. What they found -- was little Kenny; underneath the car -- covered with dirt and dust -- scared! But, unhurt.

"A real miracle."

GERMAN

The so-called German Psyche -- a subject of considerable interest to psychiatrists down through the years. The latest insight -- in results today of an official government poll; intended to determine the most important trait -- that a German looks for in a wife -- his haus fran.

Number one -- said the German male -- a wife must be thrifty above all else. Next in order -- she should be faithful, clean, affectionate, unaffected, industrious, honest, and finally pretty. Any comment, Warren -- you're looking for a wife -- I hear?

NATALIE FOLLOW GERMAN

In Hollywood--film star Natalie Wood today proved herself not only pretty--but also pretty smart. Agreeing to visit Harvard University next month--to accept an award from the Harvard Lampoon. An award citing her--as the "worst actress of this year--last year--or next year."

Far from being angry--Miss Wood adding that she was "delighted" at the award. Why so? Because--said she--it proves "the boys at Harvard are thinking about me." - *Little me - said she.*
