

APPALACHIA

The House of Representatives today handed President Johnson--his first Congressional triumph of the new legislative session. The House passing the one-point-one billion dollar aid to Appalachia Bill--keystone of the President's so-called "war on poverty."

Already approved by the Senate--the bill thus becomes the first so-called "Great Society" proposal--to reach the President's desk.

PAY

Good news for servicemen. Thirty-four members of the House Armed Services Committee--today introducing a bill calling for a billion-dollar-a-year increase in service pay. The Committee getting the jump on a presidential panel--due to report April First on the justification of a military pay raise.

Committee Chairman Mendel Rivers of South Carolina asserting that--"justification for a military pay raise needs no study."

Rivers noting that service pay lags far behind the wage scales of civilian employes of the government. Adding that "if we fail to correct this inequitable condition--we will develop a type of mediocrity in our armed forces that no American can accept."

NUCLEAR

The United States today triggered one of its biggest underground nuclear explosions to date. The firing at a Nevada nuclear test site--our fifth-weapons--related underground blast--fifth so far this year. The explosion falling in the low intermediate range--meaning a force equivalent to up to two-hundred tons of TNT.

Russia also set off an underground explosion today. Swedish monitors recording the blast somewhere in Central Asia--where the Soviets conducted several major tests last year. But no immediate estimate on the force--of that Soviet explosion.

COMMUNISTS

That so-called "unity conference" of Communist nations alligned with Russia--closed today in Moscow. The Communist leaders from nineteen nations demanding an immediate end to U.S. air raids on North Vietnam--and withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Viet Nam.

The joint statement on Viet Nam--apparently the only agreement of the three-day meeting. The Communist leaders reportedly badly split on Communist strategy to meet the mounting crisis in the Far East.

A summary of the meeting completely ignoring the ideological split between Russia and Red China--and that supposedly was what the meeting was called for in the first place.

FRANCE

Meanwhile, France officially joined hands with Russia today--in pressing for a peace conference on Viet Nam. The DeGaulle government warning that a failure to get peace talks started now--would mean progressive extension of the Vietnamese War "to the greater part of Asia."

Rreaction in this country best described as cool. The U.S. rejecting out-of-hand any proposal that might put Russia in the role of peace maker.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam itself U.S. jet bombers today flew four sorties--against Communist Viet Cong troop formations in the Mekong Delta. However, no immediate reports of results--because of dense jungle cover in the target area.

Earlier, thirty American jets said to have attacked Communist military targets in neighboring Laos. The new raid supposedly a follow-up to yesterday's air strike against an ammunition depot at a naval base in Communist North Viet Nam. But so far--no official confirmation.

CHINA

Communist China is reported tonight to have concluded a secret arms deal--with the newly independent East African nation of Tanzania. Tanzania formed recently by the union of Tanganyika--on the east coast of Africa--and neighboring island of Zanzibar.

The deal apparently part of China's campaign to assume the role of champion--among the underdeveloped countries of Africa. The Red Chinese said to be looking beyond Tanzania--toward a steady flow of arms to so-called "Freedom Fighters." Throughout the emerging nations of Africa.

TRUCK

This report from Cameron, North Carolina. Ranger William Holder scanning the horizon from a fire control tower--when he suddenly spotted a truck twisting down out of the sky. The truck crashing to earth about two-hundred feet away--narrowly missing a church.

The mystery of the falling truck finally solved by an apology from the nearby air force base. Embarrassed air force officials explaining that the three-quarter ton truck--had somehow slipped out of the rear door of a cargo plane flying at an altitude of about fifteen-hundred feet.

The Air Force expressing its "regret over the incident"--blaming it officially on "a failure of multiple safety devices."

ANTARCTIC

Night must fall--even in the Antarctic--and that is just what it is doing at this very moment.

The Coast Guard ice breaker Eastwind--last ship to leave the Antarctic. The Eastwind shoving off from the US polar station at McMurdo Sound--with winds today at forty knots--temperature warm--four below--and falling.

Summer at the South Pole--just about over. But two-hundred-and-fifty men remaining behind--members of the U.S. scientific party headed by Commander J.L. Blades of Choptank, Maryland.

Brave men--all set for a long winter's night--at the bottom of the earth.

TWINS

"I'm afraid we have a sick generation"--that comment today from Mrs. Vertana Mardis, Director of Personnel at a suburban high school near Dayton, Ohio.

Mrs. Mardis' comment following a reported suicide attempt by the twin daughters of a prominent local physician. It was the girls' second such attempt in a little over a month.

But hold on--there's more. Mrs. Mardis disclosing that since the school opened in September--there had been eight suicide attempts in all; --eight runaways;--and, one death.

"I don't understand it"--said the school official.
"Anyway you look at it--it doesn't make sense."

BOISE

Last night I told you a little about a remarkable man in Boise, Idaho, and promised to finish the story this evening. But, I should have, oh, a half hour or so to do it.

I told how two young men practical engineers, set up a contracting business, in 1912, neither had been to college. Each had a good wife who was willing to work, and each had a team of horses and a wagon. Today their firm is famous all over the world: And, it has some four hundred million dollars worth of business on its books. They construct dams, power plants, anything huge, anywhere. The name of the firm, as most of you know--Morrison-Knudsen. Knudsen parted for the other world years ago. Harry Morrison, at eighty, still going strong. And, his friends and neighbors have just given him a party. To help him celebrate his eightieth birthday. I hear they spent 70 thousand dollars on the party. A little late in life for such a party? Not for Harry Morrison. Eighty years old, still going strong; head of a world renowned firm sometimes referred to as "those American diplomats with bulldozers."

KENTUCKY

The next item is out of Newport, Kentucky.

A fifteen-year-old boy--arraigned before Campbell County Judge A.J. Jolly--on a charge of truancy.

The boy--a sixth grader--explaining that he had not attended school because he was trying to find a job. The job needed to help him provide for his nineteen-year-old wife--who is soon to become a mother.

After hearing the evidence--Judge Jolly reluctantly granting permission for the boy to quit school. But commenting wearily--Dick--"How a boy of fifteen is going to support a family--I don't know."

KOSYGIN

Soviet Premier Kosygin returned home to Moscow today--from his lack luster visit to Communist East Germany. Kosygin making no farewell speech--issuing no statement. His parting words simply: "Good by, dear German friends, good by." Good bye. Good bye. And ^{so}~~it~~ long until tomorrow.