

President Nixon continues to wind down the war. As you may have heard by now - the President today announcing plans to withdraw from Vietnam, May First - an additional seventy thousand men; thereby cutting total U.S. troop strength - to a mere sixty-nine thousand.

This a figure rapidly approaching the size of the residual force we left in South Korea - at the close of the fighting there. The President adding that "another announcement will be made - before May First - with regard to a further withdrawal."

Defense Secretary Laird, supplying additional details, said that South Vietnamese troops now have "the training, the equipment and the capability" - to win the "vast majority, seventy-five per cent or more," of their coming battles with the Communist forces.

Laird also criticizing a number of Democratic Presidential hopefuls - newly-critical of Administration war policy. These - said he - strangely silent when the

"escalator" was "going up and up and up." Laird adding -
the direction now is irreversibly "down, down, down."

As for that U.S. residual force ^{Sec.} - Laird saying: "We
will always have a remaining presence in Vietnam - until the
POW situation is resolved."

PARIS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile, another session of peace talks in Paris.

Number One Hundred and Forty; - about as fruitful as all the rest. While the U.S. was attempting to concentrate on the prisoner issue - the Communist side again concentrating on propaganda. Accusing the U.S. of preparing to use tactical nuclear weapons - near the North Vietnamese border. This - quickly branded "absurd."

WASHINGTON

Washington again - the President's Pay Board today agreed to accept - an eight-point-three per cent wage increase in the aerospace industry. This a compromise from the original twelve per cent - which the Board rejected just a week ago. The lesser figure - by a vote of eight-to-two - now held to be "reasonably consistent" with the President's wage guidelines.

TALLAHASSEE

At Tallahassee, Florida - Governor Wallace makes it official; announcing today - he is a candidate for President; adding that he intends to run - as a Democrat this time; hoping to return to the people - said he - the power now held by "intellectual snobs" in the party's national leadership.

Next question: Has the Governor considered yet the possibility of a running mate - a black, perhaps? Wallace replying: "No, I have not - ^{said he, "no"} ~~and neither~~ have I considered a white running mate."

KNOWLES

From Dr. John Knowles - who will soon head the Ford Foundation - an appraisal of the U.S. medical profession. And much of what he sees - he doesn't like. Dr. Knowles charging that roughly a third of all U.S. doctors - are overcharging their patients, performing unnecessary surgery and generally failing to perform "good quality work."

Dr. Knowles adding: "The image of the profession has degenerated. People regard the physician as being too interested in material benefits - too tied up with reading stock market columns. Doctors sit on boards of directors - and he added they are the largest single purchasers of luxury cars. All these things," said he, "add up adversely."

"~~The sad fact~~" - he concluded - "is, that the majority of good doctors suffer - from the thirty or forty per cent who are making a killing."

DACCA-RANGOON

**When Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman switched yesterday -
from President to Prime Minister of Bangladesh - his goal,
he said, was that of establishing a Parliamentary democracy.
Turns out though - he is still the new state's Number One
strongman; Dacca reporting today that besides serving as
Prime Minister - ~~Sheikh~~ Mujibur will also head the
Ministries of Defense, Home Affairs, Cabinet Affairs and
Information and Broadcasting.**

**A related item - from Rangoon. Burma today becoming
the seventh nation - officially recognizing Bangladesh.**

MOSCOW

Russian Nobel Prize-winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn -
again the target of a Kremlin broadside. The Soviet Literary
Gazette ~~charging that~~ ^{says} Solzhenitsyn's latest novel - "August,
Nineteen-Fourteen" - ~~was~~ ^{is} a thinly-veiled attempt to
discredit the Soviet Union. Adding that translations of the
novel - to be published shortly in the West - will "be very
^{helpful} ~~helpful~~ to anti-Soviet elements of every description."

~~But now~~ Solzhenitsyn ~~himself~~ ^{is} strongly denying
the accusation, ^{and says} ~~calling~~ his writings ^{as} an attempt to deal
"fairly directly" with "contemporary conditions" in Russia.
Adding that he had "not resorted to allegories, analogies or
fairy tales" - just ~~the~~ facts.

COPENHAGEN

The condition of Denmark's King Frederick - a source of growing alarm today. Doctors reporting that the seventy-two-year-old monarch - had "deteriorated further in the last twenty-four hours." Adding that ^{with} his temperature ~~was~~ rising to nearly a hundred-and-four - he ~~has~~ slipped ^{ed} deeper and deeper into unconsciousness. His condition, in short - "very serious."

SUPREME COURT

More than two years ago / Father James Groppi led a welfare demonstration onto the floor of the Wisconsin Legislature. As a result, he was later cited for contempt of that body - under an Eighteen-Forty-Eight law. His sentence - set at six months. But the Legislature's ad hoc verdict ^{was today} reversed unanimously ~~today~~ by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Warren Burger noting that the Constitution - poses no "general barriers" to the legislature's action. He added, however, that Father Groppi had not been given a statement of charges against him - nor the right to respond; and thus he was denied, quote - "due process of law."

SINGAPORE

The British Crown Colony of Singapore - once a thriving "sin city," since achieving ~~the~~ independence ~~though~~ - ~~Singapore~~ ^{has} institut^{ed} a strict new morality code, ^{in a way,} ~~sort of~~. All of which accounts for this next - a new traveler's guide to Singapore.

Still ^{going} ~~strong~~ strong - we are told - the world's "oldest profession." Also, topless strip shows - and private gambling clubs. But strictly forbidden - we hear - so-called "blue movies," hard drugs, "indecent" music and "illicit" sex - whatever that is.

Immigration officers are also instructed to refuse entry - to all hippies. ~~And~~ what exactly constitutes a "hippie"? ~~"Well, no one's sure" - we are told - "so it really means~~ ^{looking} a sloppy, traveler, without money."

FAIRFAX

The nation's sixteenth largest public education system

is in
- ~~that of~~ **Fairfax County, Virginia** - an affluent Washington suburb; where a noble experiment - is about to take place.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors - voting to appoint a high school pupil as a member of the local school board. Said appointment - to take effect February Second.

Would you call that, Warren - another case of the inmates taking over the asylum?

PAT

The First Lady, ~~discusses Women's Lib. This. in~~
~~a TV interview.~~ Pat Nixon ^saying she thinks ~~that~~ more
women ~~should~~ should run for political office. Only trouble - said
she: "Many women don't want to run - because other women
won't support them." Mrs. Nixon ~~says~~ ^{says} ~~adding, however, that she~~
herself - "would support any well-qualified woman for any job,
including President."

As to the charge that her husband is ^{out of step} ~~"old fashioned"~~
with regard to women, - not so - says the First Lady.
Observing the President has already appointed - "a great
number of women" to high positions. The President ~~also~~
~~even~~ ^{even} ~~quoted as~~ saying: "Why, without women - this would only
be half the nation it is."