

PRAGUE

Fri. Mar. 15-68

Prague, Czechoslovakia -- an historic occasion today; marking the end of an era in that country -- and perhaps a turning point for the entire world. Czech Forestry Minister Josef Smrkovsky -- in a nationwide broadcast -- declaring that Stalinist Communism is gone forever from Czechoslovakia.

As proof -- Smrkovsky disclosing for the first time -- that Soviet Party Leader Brezhnev had recently tried -- and failed -- to intervene in Czech affairs. This apparently in a vain attempt -- to save ousted Czech Party ~~and~~ Leader Novotny. However, Brezhnev soon "realized -- we were decided to stick to our plans" -- said Smrkovsky. Result: Brezhnev quoted as saying: "Well, comrades, its your affair."

KINGS POINT

Robert Kennedy's personal "moment of truth" -- now set for ten o'clock tomorrow morning in Washington; when he is scheduled to announce -- one way or the other -- his ^{final} decision whether to challenge President Johnson for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The younger brother of the late President Kennedy -- setting time and place in a dramatic statement today at Kings Point, New York, coupled with a broad hint -- that he will make the race. Robert Kennedy telling a group of his supporters: "You can help me -- in the effort which I am going to under^{take}."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW KINGS POINT

Along about noon -- also in Washington -- a scheduled meeting of that seven-nation gold pool. The United States and its European allies -- to consider ways and means of stemming the current gold crisis; at the same time -- to preserve the integrity of the U.S. dollar.

Best bet: That the gold pool will act quickly -- to ban private speculators from the gold market. ^{and} continuing to redeem dollars for gold -- in dealings only with foreign governments; still at the fixed U.S. price -- of Thirty-Five Dollars an ounce.

In the meantime -- a special "gold holiday" today in major markets; excepting Paris -- where the price quickly climbed to better than Forty-Four Bucks an ounce. For the first time in memory -- a number of hotels and banks in Paris and Frankfurt -- later refusing to convert U.S. dollars into local currency.

VIETNAM

ADD WASHINGTON

Received to Win. That's the aim of the biggest

A related item -- from London. Foreign Secretary

US operation to date -- in the war in Vietnam. Launched

George Brown -- resigning tonight from the British cabinet.

today in the five provinces around Saigon -- under the

Apparent^{ly} reason: He was ignored by Prime Minister Harold

personal command of General Westmoreland.

Wilson -- in recent consultations on the gold crisis.

Received to Win -- aimed at beating the enemy to the

punch. To find and destroy the Viet Cong in their lair --

before they could launch another sneak attack against Saigon.

First results -- goodie excellent. Allied ~~forces~~

killed some two hundred and thirty Viet Cong -- as against

American losses not at eleven. Allied forces also

capturing large caches -- of guns, ammunition, mortars and

rockets.

VIETNAM

"Resolved to win." That's the name of the biggest U.S. operation to date -- in the war in Vietnam. Launched today in the five provinces around Saigon -- under the personal command of General Westmoreland.

"Resolved to win" -- aimed at beating the enemy to the punch. To find and destroy the Viet Cong in their lair -- before they ^{can} ~~could~~ launch another sneak attack against Saigon.

9
First results -- good to excellent. Allied ^{Troops} ~~forces~~ killed some two hundred and thirty Viet Cong -- as against American losses set at eleven. Allied forces also capturing large caches -- of guns, ammunition, mortars and rockets.

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House -- first major breakthrough today in that two hundred and forty-five-day-old copper strike. Labor and management negotiators hammering out a tentative pact -- covering some ten thousand Kennecott Copper employees. Terms ~~including~~⁹ including a reported -- fifty-cent-an-hour wage increase.

If approved by Kennecott workers -- this expected to set the pattern for the entire industry.

Some procedure also recommended for top Senate employees -- as a means, hopefully, of averting ~~another~~ Bobby Baker scandal.

SENATE

Yesterday -- a House Ethics Committee report. Today -- the Senate Ethics Committee coming out with its own recommendations; aimed at establishing a similar code of conduct -- for the upper house.

First and foremost -- the committee urging that Senators should be required to make a full financial report to the U.S. comptroller general. These to include copies of their Federal tax returns -- all in sealed envelopes; subject to review -- only by majority vote of the Ethics panel.

50
The same procedure also recommended for top Senate employees -- as a means, hopefully, of averting ~~another~~ ^{another} Bobby Baker scandal.

CAIRO

Question: Is Nasser on the way out? Answer: A tentative "maybe" -- according to travelers returning today from Cairo.

For the first time in fifteen years -- increasing numbers of war-shaken Egyptians are said to ^{be} ~~X~~ openly critical of the Nasser regime. Extremists among them circulating leaflets throughout the country -- demanding a return to civilian rule; also -- freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Continuing a restiveness that flared into the open last month -- with riots among students and workers.

Where will it all end? Answer upcoming -- perhaps tomorrow; when the government has scheduled a reopening -- of all the nation's schools. Nasser himself promising a personal appearance at Cairo University -- in an effort to stem the tide of student unrest.

MOSCOW

Communism versus nudism. Story today -- from Moscow.

Where a Soviet magazine called Youth -- recently reproduced a ~~xxx~~ shocking painting. Shocking -- for a number of Russians, at least. The artist depicting three nude women -- reclining on a beach.

Ever since -- the cards and letters have been pouring in,

The Magazine
~~in Youth~~ quoting some -- in its latest edition. Including one from a reader who said simply: "Shame!" Another says the artist should have picked something better to paint -- like a construction site, a harvest-scene "or something new in technology." The writer -- a woman -- adding that she herself never had and "never would set foot in a picture gallery" displaying nudes. *The Magazine*

Youth's rebuttal -- in a final word from Karl Marx.

Noting that -- "ignorance is a devilish force."