

HOUSE

Thurs. Aug 6, '70.

Turning to the domestic scene - the House today completed final congressional approval of that long delayed postal bill; which now goes to the White House - for the President's signature. The measure providing - for postal workers - a ~~bx~~ substantial pay increase <sup>Also of much</sup> ~~more~~ important <sup>ce</sup> for the rest of us ~~though~~ - the bill providing that the post office department shall now become an independent government agency. <sup>P</sup> The White House <sup>is</sup> ~~promptly~~ calling this - "a landmark day for mail users and a landmark ~~for~~ day for mail workers;" and doesn't that include all of us!  
~~one that will improve the nation tremendously - we hope~~

## PARIS

At peace talks in Paris - U S Ambassador David Bruce ~~makes the debut~~ in his ~~debut~~ debut as chief American peace envoy - presenting today a straight forward, no nonsense approach. Bruce telling the Communist delegation: "experience has shown that it is extremely difficult - to find negotiated solutions to immensely complex issues. But I believe experience will also show", he went on - "that solutions can be found - if there is a genuine will on both sides to face realities with sincerity and quiet resolve."

In the same vein Bruce also expressed hope that both sides - will be able to "avoid propaganda and harsh language; and settle down - to a business-like discussion <sup>of</sup> the issues." "We both need to take another look" - said he - "to find the way to a genuine negotiation of a settlement - a settlement that will bring a just and lasting peace." The Ambassador adding: "I ask for your cooperation in this task - and I offer you mine."

In sum then, David Bruce revealing no new proposals -- no significant shift in emphasis; nothing at all - "startling" to use his own words; just an honest desire - to get the talks off dead ~~in~~ center. ~~But they~~ <sup>But they</sup> ~~didn't get very far today. - it must be admitted.~~ An enemy spokesman later telling newsmen - "there had been nothing new."

Observers noting, nevertheless - a sudden sense of renewed optimism - whether real or merely wishful thinking - only time can tell.

## PENTAGON FOLLOW PARIS

Here at home - the ~~news~~ news was also looking up on the draft front. The Pentagon announcing that draft calls for the next four months - will come to only thirty-nine thousand men; which means the total number of draftees for the entire year - will be the lowest since nineteen Sixty-Four. Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird crediting the draft cutback to - "the success of the Vietnamization program" <sup>and</sup> noting that withdrawals from Vietnam have already totalled more than a hundred and thirty thousand men; with more heading home - every day.

Selective Service Director Curtis Tarr adding that draft eligible youths with a lottery number higher than one ninety-five -- are now almost sure of being exempt.



## **SAIGON FOLLOW PENTAGON**

*Still - the fighting continues. Enemy gunners zeroing in today on a U S air strip - in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, Forcing it to close for several hours - in the midst of a big allied operation along the nearby Laotian border.*

*Meanwhile, the U S command reporting American combat deaths below a hundred for the fifth straight week. At the same time - the number of American wounded climbing sharply; but this said to be a "carry over" from earlier fighting around artillery base Ripcord - since abandoned, you ~~will~~<sup>may</sup> recall.*

MIDDLE EAST FOLLOW SAIGON

*they are still*  
In the Middle East - ~~too, the~~ fighting, ~~continues~~.

Israeli jets today attacking Arab targets - in Egypt and Jordan. Also Arab versus Arab - in the streets of Amman; Al Fatah guerrillas -- challenging Jordan's acceptance of that latest U S peace plan. While Arab ministers from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Libya and ~~the~~ Sudan - were ending a two day meeting at Tripoli; having apparently failed - in efforts to restore Arab unity.

For all this, though - Washington reports increasing progress in behind the scenes diplomacy. State Department sources adding that a bona fide cease fire before the end of the week is still a distinct possibility.

## GEORGETOWN

From Georgetown Universities prestigious center for strategic and international studies - a report today telling of a massive Soviet buildup in ~~xxx~~ Asia.

The Russians <sup>are</sup> said to have increased by at least thirty divisions - the number of Soviet troops now stationed along their four thousand mile border with Red China <sup>where I was a few weeks ago.</sup>

<sup>A</sup>The study further reporting that these troops - "are armed with artillery, rockets, aircraft, and all the equipment necessary for waging conventional or nuclear war." Study director Robert Kilmar adding: "So intense is the hostility" on the Sino-Soviet frontier - "that the Chinese charge they are confronted not with a friendly Communist ally - but rather an hereditary enemy;" <sup>as the Chinese put it,</sup> one that <sup>A</sup>"has embarked on a policy to destroy China - not only as a Communist power but as a nation."

## MOSCOW FOLLOW GEORGETOWN

~~Reverend~~ ~~side~~ - Moscow! - Russia and West  
<sup>today</sup>  
Germany <sup>^</sup> concluded ~~today~~ - the terms of a new non-  
aggression treaty; the first such pact - since the days  
of Hitler and Stalin; one that will "form a solid basis"  
we are told, for the future development of relations  
between the two countries. And so another bridge  
between East and West.



## ROME

Rome again - a new Italian Premier - at last. Christian Democrat Emilio Colombo -- agreeing today to pick up the reins of command; succeeding ex-Premier Mariano Rumor - who resigned ~~just a~~ <sup>a</sup> month ago. <sup>today</sup> ~~This~~ <sup>means a</sup> ~~leading the~~ thirty-second Italian government ~~since~~ <sup>^</sup> since the fall of Fascism ~~at~~ in Nineteen Forty-Three. Colombo himself - a treasury minister in eight of those governments <sup>^</sup> Now coming to full power with the backing of a new coalition - including, in addition to his own party the Socialists, the unitarian socialists and the Republicans. ~~And a good thing~~ - For what with present conditions in Italy he'll need all the help he can get.

## VATICAN

From the Vatican - ~~at Rome~~ - a ban today on all "eccentric and arbitrary" forms of worship - at least, in Italy. A Vatican document saying this refers specifically - to so-called "jazz" or "beat" masses. A move that was taken - we are told - at the request of Italian Bishops; who said earlier this week <sup>that</sup> they were becoming increasingly concerned about the "rock" trend in worship services. The situation apparently coming to a head - with the growing popularity of a church combo called "the Vitamins"; who played electric guitar, drums and organ - while singing religious words to songs like "we shall overcome."

# HONOLULU

From the land of "aloha" - ~~come~~ a story  
today "for women only." Hawaii's state statisticians  
-- Robert Schmitt - reporting that Hawaii is ~~sex~~ the  
nation's happiest hunting ground for women in search  
of husbands - a condition self-evident, said he - ~~in~~ in the  
fact that the number of men - "fourteen years of age  
or older" is nearly double the number of women <sup>of</sup> same  
age grouping. The message in short: "Go west, <sup>Wahini-</sup> young  
lady - go all the way west to mid-Pacific  
- go west - and grab yourself a young Ka-ne.  
Oa a Ka-ne, <sup>John Shaker</sup> are you looking for a  
Wahini?

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## CARSON CITY

~~This went from~~ Carson City, Nevada; ~~where~~  
the State Gambling Commission - reports a recent five  
per cent quarterly increase in gambling revenues, based  
on casino winnings - totalling nearly a hundred and thirty  
million - which might seem pretty good - except that the  
rate of increase had been running at closer to twenty five  
per cent for years and years.

As to the why of it all - apparently a dirth of  
big spenders in view of the present tight money situation.  
Looking on the bright side - though - a veteran gambler  
observing: "Well, if you don't have it - at least  
you can't lose it."