

Thurs. July 1, 1971

MONTPELIER

Eighteen year olds are now eligible to vote in all elections; thanks to today's record ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. With the State of Vermont carrying the youth movement a step further by enacting into Vermont law a measure giving eighteen year olds all the legal rights - and responsibility - of adulthood. That is, to vote, and drink, and marry without parental consent; which also means that they alone are now responsible for their legal debts and financial obligations as well as any criminal transgressions.

How are the eighteen year olds taking it? Says Ethen Allan David Babbitt of Burlington, Vermont: "It's really scary!" Quite a change from being protected now to be pushed out into the street."

PARIS

Progress at Paris - or so it seems. At any rate, the Communist side setting forth today, as you no doubt have heard - a new seven point Vietnam peace plan; including a pledge to "agree" on the release of all prisoners of war - IF the US will agree - in turn, to complete withdrawal before the end of the year in which case - said the enemy, we could have all our fighting men back home by Christmas.

This drawing from David Bruce - for the U S - a call for immediate adjournment, to facilitate - as he put it, a full appraisal of the North Vietnam offer.

D M Z

Meanwhile, the fighting continued; including a U S air strike against enemy gun emplacements on the North Vietnamese side of that D M Z; the same that have been pounding Allied bases for two weeks.

Also, the U S Army today ordered home - a battalion of the Seventh Armored Division; the last full strength U S tank outfit - still guarding the D M Z. Said one of them: - Eighteen year old Mike Chapman of Nashville - "It's the greatest thing that ever happened!"

MOSCOW

In the cavernous Central House of the Red Army - Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev, wept today at the bier of the three Soviet Cosmonauts. Later, when he attempted to comfort a young daughter of one of the men - he sobbed out of control.

Thousands and thousands more - including virtually the entire Kremlin hierarchy, also - were there to pay their final respects to the cosmonauts each of whom was wearing a long with his other medals - the Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union, given posthumously. The funeral will be tomorrow in Red Square.

HOUSE

By a vote of twenty-five to thirteen - the House Commerce Committee recommended today that the CBS Network and its president, Frank Stanton - be cited for contempi of Congress, for refusing to turn over subpoenaed film material - dealing with the controversial - T V documentary - the Selling of the Pentagon.

Nevertheless, Committee Chairman Staggers of West Virginia later praised the CBS personnel involved. "I think perhaps they did America a great service - one that would have gone down in history - if they had stuck to the facts," was the way he worded it.

NEW YORK

Said CBS President Stanton: the Commerce Committee - by today's vote - "is, in effect, taking dead aim against the First Amendment" and this "a disappointing contrast to the Supreme Court" action of yesterday - reaffirming "the function of journalism in a free society." Then adding: "If broadcasters must submit to government surveillance of news judgement, broadcast journalism can never perform the independent and robust role which the Constitution intended for the American press."

CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill again - the House today passed and sent along to the White House - a new public works bill; aimed at creating some two hundred thousand jobs - in fields such as education, recreation, health and police and fire protection; with first call - expected to go to returning war veterans.

This is the compromise bill the President said he'll sign - in contrast to the "accelerated" public works bill he vetoed earlier this week.

TEL AVIV

As secretly as he arrived - Director Richard Helms of the U S - C I A left Tel Aviv today on his way to Turkey and Iran, following talks with Israeli officials, Golda Meir, Abba Evan - Moshe Dayan and others. Just what he has on his mind no one seems to know.

SEOUL

With Vice President Agnew among the guests South Korea's ^{President} Park Chung Hee was inaugurated today - for a third term, ~~as President~~. In his speech President Park said: "A great change is taking place - as indicated by the mood of thaw between East and West - and the rapprochement between the United States and Communist China."

"Hopefully," he went on, "these changes may dispel the dark clouds of aggression - that hang over Asia."

Vice President Agnew believes South Korea may profit from all this, because it will mean an additional market for Korean products.

POSTAL

By act of Congress - and by dint of a wholesale reorganization - the old Post Office Department became today - the new U S Postal Service; a semi-autonomous government corporation - that will now attempt to deal with the nation's staggering mail load.

To mark the occasion - Postmaster General Blount as he delivered a new packet of eight cent stamps to President Nixon, said: "I'm happy we are making this first delivery on time." And, he added Warren: "We intend to make a habit of that."

DAVIS

Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. was a visitor at the White House today, where he watched the President sign a document - making him a member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity. The President later telling his guest - he had first seen him perform as a member of the Willmastein Trio at a New York night club - nearly twenty years ago. "It was a great show," said the President - one "I'll never forget." To which Sammy Davis replied - "it was also an exciting night for us, having a Vice President in the audience." Said the President: "Since then - we've both come up in the world haven't we?"