

*Thurs. February 26, 1970
Reed Collins*

CAPITOL HILL

As promised, President Nixon delivered to Congress today - a new blueprint for achieving massive cutbacks in Federal spending. A plan aimed at scaling down - scores of "non-essential" or "sacred cow" government programs. Projected savings starting out at 127-thousand - which would come from the elimination of a government tea-tasting program; running up to nearly Three Hundred Million - in reforms aimed at cutting back assistance to schools in so-called Federally-impacted areas. These - areas where schools are crowded by children of Federal employees.

The President conceded that many of his planned economies - would meet with stiff opposition in Congress. He said, however: "The savings we make now - are dollars enlisted in the fight against inflation." And he added: "There is no need more urgent to all the people - than the need to hold down the rising cost of living."

WHITE HOUSE

Back at the White House - President Nixon today completed three days of talks - with visiting French President Pompidou. In a later departure ceremony - the two men exchanging expressions of warm friendship. Mr. Nixon saying: "We have not agreed on everything - but we have found our areas of agreement are greater than when we began." Pompidou, for his part, saying: "We have made very good progress - in restoring the kind of relationship that should exist - between two nations whose alliance over a hundred and ninety years - has consistently served the cause of peace and freedom."

With that - the French President taking off for a brief visit to Cape Kennedy; and then - on to San Francisco

PARIS

For the second week in a row - an attempt at a new start today in Paris. U.S. peace delegate Philip Habib - once more laying aside his prepared text; attempting to engage the Communist side - in a free discussion of key issues.

As for results - it's hard to tell. Habib later reporting that Communist negotiators - simply refused to discuss the prisoner-of-war situation. He said they wanted to talk only about - unilateral withdrawal - Laos - and so on.

It's worth noting though - today's session lasted more than seven-and-a-half hours - by far, the longest yet. Which indicates, if nothing else - they are talking.

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

Another sign of progress, if such it can be called - reported today from Saigon. The U.S. Command noting that American battlefield deaths - are down fifty per cent so far, this year over last; even though Communist losses - are down only slightly.

The explanation - in that "Vietnamization" they're always talking about. South Vietnamese losses during the same period - jumping around forty per cent.

On the debit side - at Da Nang - five U.S. Marines were charged today with murdering sixteen South Vietnamese; five women -and eleven children. The killings ^{said} ~~to~~ to have occurred in the village of Son Thang - in a Communist-infested area only about thirty miles south of ~~Da Nang~~ Da Nang

**(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"GORILLA")**

In the Kingdom of Nepal - up near the "roof of the world" - Lowell Thomas is continuing tonight his quest for "high adventure." Which means - back here - it's time again for another special report he left us.

Lowell...

GORILLA

L. T. Tape Insert - unedited

Good evening, everybody.

A couple of days ago - I mentioned a contention that gorillas are actually gentle, lovable creatures. Would you believe it? At any rate, now comes the story of a young American girl - her name, Dian Fossey; and she reaches the same conclusion - after three rather special years of studying wild mountain gorillas; doing it in their own haunts - in Central Africa.

The site of Miss Dian Fossey's direct research - the misty slopes of the Virunga Range; where three nations all come together - Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; where I was making a TV show - a couple of years ago; and there she became - so she says - virtually a member of the gorilla tribe; gaining the animals' confidence - by acting just like a gorilla; imitating their feeding and grooming habits - making gorilla-like sounds - even burping like a gorilla. I'd like to hear her do that.

Along the way - Miss Dian Fossey observed that the

gorillas often played together like little puppies. Nipping at each other - tickling each other - swinging happily through the trees. I wonder if Dian did that. Sometimes doing it with the "most idiotic" grins on their faces - she says. Further recalling that she saw less than five minutes of anything that might be considered aggressive behavior - in the two years that she lived with the gorillas.

As for her own closest call - Dian Fossey relates that one day early in the game - five large male gorillas did charge her, roaring as they came. The leader got to within three feet of her - she said; and then she adds - "I simply spread my arms wide and shouted whoa." End of charge - and of story.

**(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"GORILLA")**

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

...this is perhaps of special note. Dr. Robert

...of the University of California at Berkeley, a

prominent sociologist, asserting today that the so-called

"radical revolution" has already begun. Last year

...it will be nothing more than a memory. And the

main reason - said he - is the fact that student radicals

have failed to attempt to overthrow the

average college student as some sort of an Asiatic

person - ruthlessly oppressed by an imperialist system.

Dr. Fisher added that, in truth, the American university

student is - and has been for many years - one of the most

and best nurtured and

cherished beings in Western history."

The doctor then went on to observe that "others have

even constructed, if occasionally violent, nations

proceeding from youthful idealism." But he said that

he "I have more than once seen them and I"

BERKELEY

In view of continuing student violence out on the West Coast - this next is perhaps of special note. Dr. Robert Nisbet of the University of California at Berkeley - a prominent sociologist - asserting today that the so-called "student revolution" has already peaked out; that by next year - it will be nothing more than a memory. And the main reason - said he - in the fact that student radicals have failed miserably - in their attempt to portray the average college student as "some variant of an Asiatic peasant" - ruthlessly oppressed by an impersonal system. Dr. Nisbet adding that, in truth, the "American university student is - and has been for many years - one of the freest and, at the same time, most carefully nurtured and cherished beings in Western history."

The doctor then goes on to observe that "others have seen constructive, if occasionally violent, action - proceeding from youthful idealism." But "as for me" - said he - "I have much more often seen destructive vandalistic

action - proceeding from adolescent boredom."

That - from Dr. Robert Nisbet of the University of California at Berkeley.