

PARIS-SAIGON

Wed. Mar. 26 - 69.

12 On the peace front - Paris - an apparent split today in the Communist camp; on whether to accept Saigon's offer - for direct, secret talks with the Viet Cong. The debate - if such it can be called - forcing another day's delay in the promised Red response; as the Communist "hawks" and the Communist "doves" - decide which will prevail.

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- Meanwhile, in Vietnam - the latest Red offensive entered its second month - still going strong. In one engagement today - guerilla forces storming a U.S. outpost near Saigon - killing eight. However, the enemy is said to have suffered staggering losses - in a simultaneous series of skirmishes from the D.M.Z. to the Mekong Delta. With the number of Communist dead set at two hundred and seventy-five - over the last twenty-four hours alone.

## CAPITOL HILL

~~Turning to the domestic front~~ - President Nixon makes it official. As promised - asking Congress today for a one-year extension - of the present ten per cent income tax surcharge. Coupling this request with a promise to submit to Congress by next month - a new set of proposals for long-awaited tax reforms. "Taken together" - said the ~~President~~<sup>8</sup> President - "these actions will produce the strong budget surplus urgently needed - to meet the current inflationary threat."

Administration sources later adding that the President's new tax plan - will be aimed first and foremost at closing existing loopholes; especially those now enjoyed by certain foundations - also, certain conglomerates - ~~XXXXX~~<sup>8</sup> as well as so-called "hobby farmers."

WALTER REED

Latest from Walter Reed--a report ~~tonight~~ that former President Eisenhower remains in critical condition. Doctors noting the General's--"inherent stamina." However, they add that "evidences of congestive heart failure persist--despite the fact that all appropriate therapeutic measures are being utilized."

## KARACHI

The new ruler of Pakistan barely a day - General  
(Ya-hee-ya)  
Yahya Khan has already wrought a seeming miracle in that  
country. Restoring law and order - where once there was  
chaos. ~~Restoring unity~~ <sup>Unity</sup> - on the surface, at least - between  
East and West Pakistan - where once there was the threat of  
civil war.

How did he do it? According to those in the know -  
by acting the no-nonsense professional soldier he really is.  
General Yahya <sup>not only</sup> declaring a state of martial law <sup>but</sup> threatening  
to shoot any trouble-makers. But perhaps more important -  
pledging the nation free elections as soon as possible.  
Thereby winning the immediate support - of rightists,  
leftists, even starving peasants.

## HAVANA-AMSTERDAM

~~Closer to home~~ - another U.S. airliner ~~was~~ hijacked to Cuba today. Fourteenth ~~such incident~~ - this year.

At the same time - the International Federation of Airline Pilots - meeting in special session at Amsterdam, <sup>ed</sup> Voting authorization for a twenty-four worldwide pilot strike - to dramatize the "very urgent problem of security in the air." Also voting to institute a boycott - against any country that fails to punish a hijacker.

## NEW YORK

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor - back again for their annual visit. Arriving in New York today - aboard the liner United States. The Duchess - as always - dressed in the height of fashion. For a change - the Duke, too, a vision in up-to-the minute sartorial splendor. Wearing a wide-lapel double-breasted houndstooth <sup>Suit</sup> ~~suit~~ - a matching houndstooth tie - tied in a Windsor knot, of course - also, a two-tone shirt with spread collar. In short, the epitome of the new "Windsor Look" in men's fashions - a style the Duke himself has been wearing steadily for the past thirty years or so.

By the way - the Duke - at age seventy-five - was limping a bit. "The doctor called it tendonitis - but I call it just a bum hip" - said he. Adding: "When you get ~~old~~ old - you have to have some pain someplace."



## LONDON

Across the Atlantic- Britain gets its first black peer. The former Sir Learie Constantine - now Lord Constantine - taking his seat for the first time today in the British House of Lords.

A native of Trinidad - once a British possession - Lord Constantine was a crackerjack cricketeer in his earlier years. More recently - serving as Trinidad's first High Commissioner in London. Finally elevated to the peerage via the Queen's latest New Year's Honors List. By virtue of his dual citizenship - a credit to both his countries.

## DUNKIRK

From Dunkirk, New York, comes a brief item today - telling of the death of William W. Cease. The venerable gentleman - victim of a lengthy illness.

Next question: Who he? Answer: The man who probably did more than any other - to liberate the American wife from her household chores. Also - a boon to hungry bachelors. William W. Cease - the man who created the first frozen food pies - and later the first frozen TV dinners. He was seventy-one.



## MOSCOW

Moscow - the Kremlin tackles the problem of alcoholism.

This in an article today - in Komsomolskaya Pravda. Advising the Russian housewife to "react very strongly - the first time she sees her husband in a drunken condition."

"Give him a good scolding" - says Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Adding: "If this is done - we would not have so many alcoholics." Assuming, of course, <sup>Warren,</sup> it's not the wife - who drove him to drink in the first place.

BUENOS AIRES

A freak accident - reported today from Buenos Aires. Where one Nestor Eduardo Vallalba was racing to the bank - attempting to make a last-minute deposit. Except that he got there too late - the bank was already in the process of closing. With two giant steel shutters - weighing an estimated ten tons - just coming down over the entrance when he tried to slip in.

Unfortunately - he didn't make it. Nestor Eduardo Vallalba - still clutching his deposit when the shutters were raised again - but it didn't matter by then. <sup>He was</sup> ~~As the~~ *on his way to the next world where*  
~~man said - you can't take it with you.~~ *And s-l-u -*  
*they tell us we won't need money*