

The War news from Vietnam - marked by a suspension of B-Fifty-Two bombing runs - against Communist targets in South Vietnam. A deescalation ordered personally by President Nixon - who then suspended his suspension only a few hours after it was made public.

Reason - said the White House: We were trying "to determine the intent of the enemy" - in the wake of that cease-fire in honor of Ho Chi Minh; attempting to make it clear to the rest of the world - that if the fighting resumed it was not the fault of the U.S. A strategy to no avail - we are told as the Communist quickly reverted - to full "pre-ceasefire" fighting.

All this - in the midst of a high-level White House policy meeting - attempting to chart our future policy in Vietnam.

Add VIETNAM

U Thant said today that a settlement may be in sight in Vietnam. The UN General breaking a long silence on that subject - noting that he had purposely refrained from public comment regarding Vietnam since the start of the Paris talks. This afternoon, while taking a cautiously hopeful view, Thant added that there must be a de-escalation of fighting - and establishment of conditions whereby the Vietnamese people themselves will be able to resolve their own differences without outside interference.

MIDDLE EAST

The Mideast again marked by an Israeli air strike - the third in as many days - in the Gulf of Suez area.

Targets including - for the second time around - the coastal cities of Ras Adu Darag and Ras Zafarana. In ground action - Israeli patrols killing eight Arab commandos - near the Dead Sea.

In Tel Aviv - Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned today - that Israeli will continue to retaliate against continuing Arab terrorist attacks; but it will not take any action - said he - that will lead to a resumption of full-scale hostilities.

And Israeli Deputy Premier Yigal Allon - attempting to justify that big raid into Egypt earlier this week. Asserting that it may have prevented - what he called "a possible all-out Arab offensive.

ADD MIDDLE EAST

A later development: Arab commandos crossing the Suez Canal - at a point about fifteen miles east of Quantara. / According to Cairo - destroying an Israeli command post / inflicting "heavy loss of life."

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(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "THE STARS")

With Lowell Thomas continuing tonight his flight
across the Pacific - it's time again for another special
report he left us. This one - shooting at the stars.
Lowell...

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THE STARS

Hello Everybody: This Universe of ours - the only Universe that we know about - not too much at that - contains around one hundred thousand million billion stars. So we are told by Dr. Melville Grosvenor of the National Geographic. Now how many would a hundred thousand million billion be? He says that that would equal the number of grains of sand on all the beaches in the world.

If it's so - and who's going to check - surely the astronomers are right in saying that there must be hundreds, perhaps thousands of other planets where conditions are almost the same as they are right here on earth. Every eminent astronomer I have ever known does think so! But the obvious problem is how to bridge those vast, vast spaces, so that we can go and take a look. Some day, some day, mebbe a few thousand years from now, Man will find a way to do it.

Incidentally, we are told that in the Milky Way alone

THE STARS - 2

there are over a hundred billion stars and that our own planet is a part of The Milky Way.

You, of course are all familiar with shooting stars.

But, we are told that shooting stars are not stars at all,

but merely particles the size of a grain of sand traveling at

high speed in orbits around our sun. In late Summer our

planet passes through regions in space where there are more

of these tiny bits and they explode when they collide with our

atmosphere and we see them.

And, solong

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "THE STARS")

Thank you, Lowell. Getting back to earth again...

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Arthur Eckhardt also challenged the authority of recent Federal statistics on the same subject. Through his vigorous and optimistic, and somewhat optimistic picture of the scope of desegregation achieved. Adding that "in fact, a number of schools have accomplished relatively little desegregation" over the entire period of "the last 10/15 years."

WASHINGTON

On the domestic front - the Nixon Administration was under fire today - from one of the President's own appointees. Namely - Father Theodore Hesburgh - chairman of the President's Civil Rights Commission; who accused of the Federal government of making what "appears to be - a major retreat in the struggle to achieve meaningful school desegregation."

Father Hesburgh also challenged the authenticity - of recent Federal statistics on the same subject. These he said, giving "an overly optimistic, misleading and inaccurate picture - of the scope of desegregation achieved". Adding that, "in fact, a number of southern states" have accomplished "relatively little desegregation" - over the entire period of "the last fifteen years."

SENATE

Elsewhere in Washington - the battle lines were beginning to form today - in the contest to name a new Senate Minority Leader. Freshman Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee / becoming the first to declare for that position; / seeking to succeed his father-in-law - the late Senator Everett Dirksen. / ^{Hugh} Veteran Senator / Scott of Pennsylvania - next up; / in letters to Republican members - the acting Senate Minority Leader unveiling his own bid - to make it a permanent job.

ES

BUCKS COUNTY

From the mass of new credit cards currently flooding the market - here's one truly unique. Just out in Bucks County, Pennsylvania - it's called the Medicredit Card; in practice - just what its name implies; allowing the subscriber to tell doctors, dentists, hospitals, laboratories and so on - simply to "charge it." Said charges promptly paid by participating banks - leaving the patient to repay at his leisure.

While not exactly a substitute for health insurance - it does provide a cushion of sorts; and it could cut medical costs - we are told - by eliminating much of the present hospital paperwork. And Warren, anything that will cut paperwork has a lot going for it.

DETROIT

In the world auto capital - Detroit - a post-mortem today on the firing of Ford president Semon "Bunkie" Knudsen. Coming to the conclusion that he lost his job - because of his insistence on acting up to his title as chief operating officer. Bunkie Knudsen supposedly forcing through a lot of changes - that eventually alienated him from his new colleagues. An alienation - that finally extended all the way to the top man - Henry Ford the SEcond.

Summing it all up - a Ford "insider" asserting that the veteran General Motors man - just "couldn't fit in." Thus proving - said he - "What's good for General Motors - is not necessarily good for Ford."

Good night.