

DRAFT

Mon. March 6-'67.

By direct order from President Johnson - a drastic overhaul of the draft was put into effect today - including induction of nineteen year olds first - and use of a lottery system to choose future draftees. With selective service Director Lewis Hershey - moving immediately to accomplish the changes.

The new rules - made public by the Texas White House [^] Putting into effect many of the recommendations from a special Presidential panel - only last week.

However, the President taking under advisement - two others of the committee's recommendations. First - that most college and job deferments ~~should~~ be abolished; and second - that local draft boards ~~should~~ also be abolished - in favor of regional review boards.

The President adding, nevertheless, that future deferments for post-graduate work - will be limited solely to medical and dental students.

VIETNAM

As for the war -- a tremendous air assault today on War Zone C in South Vietnam. With thousands of U.S. paratroopers and columns of tanks -- transported by helicopter into the jungles northwest of Saigon, to begin a search-and-destroy mission -- in a Viet Cong sanctuary heretofore untouched by American fighting men.

Back in Saigon itself -- American jets were officially blamed today for the tragic accident last week; the bombing and strafing of a friendly village -- near the border of Laos. Why -- no one knows for sure. A special board is still investigating the case.

Reverse side of the coin -- a civilian tragedy today that was not accidental. Viet Cong terrorists exploding a mine under a bus filled with farm workers -- about forty miles north of Saigon. Killing thirty-seven and wounding fifteen -- men, women and children.

RED CHINA

Vast segments of Red China's two and a half - million-man army - have been ordered, almost literally, to pound their swords ~~into~~ into plowshares. The news - in an article in the official government newspaper "Red Flag", contents of which ~~are~~ were broadcast repeatedly today - by Radio Peking.

The Army sent into the fields - to win what is called "the first battle in spring farm work." "Red flag" adding that soldiers and ~~are~~ civilians alike - are instructed to work side by side on the farms; even with those - who may have made mistakes in the past. ^{This} An apparent ~~is~~ reference to opponents - of Chairman Mao's so-called "cultured revolution."

~~This according to~~ ^{call this} China-watchers ^{is} a sure sign that practicality has won out over ideology; at least, in round one - of the current battle for Red China.

MOSCOW

A related item - from Moscow. Where Soviet Premier Kosygin today accused the United States - of thwarting^a "real chance" for Vietnamese peace talks. Doing so - by resuming bombings after the New Year's truce.

This proof - said Kosygin -- that "the United States is trying to liquidate the prospects for negotiations." Proof - he went on - that the "U S pronouncements on a peaceful settlement are nothing but word-mongering -- calculated to ~~and~~ deceive public opinion." With the strange result - said he - that "the position of the ^{present} ~~present~~ Chinese government - actually coincides with that of ~~the~~ American ruling circles."

Turning to matters of national defense - Kosygin again lumping together the United States and China; when he said that Russia - is constantly perfecting its military technique.

This necessary - said he - because "the United States continues to pursue an aggressive policy; also, because China - is "an additional source of complications."

Which is as close^{as} the Soviet leaders ~~■~~ has ever come - to admitting that the Chinese might someday pose^a military threat - to the Soviet Union.

IZVESTIA FOLLOW MOSCOW

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Elsewhere in Moscow - another Russian blast today at the U S Central Intelligence Agency. The second in less than a week -- in the government newspaper ~~is~~ Izvestia. With the C I A called a "Trojan Horse" - whose alleged mission is to subvert Soviet citizens and infiltrate Soviet institutions.

The article further charging that Professor Glé^b Struve of the University of California at Berkeley - is the latest American scholar to sell out to the C I A. Professor Struve - who is descended from an old Russian family - ^{is} generally considered one of the world's top experts on Soviet literature.

WASHINGTON

Teamster President ~~Jimmy~~ Hoffa - apparently at the end of his rope tonight, following a ruling from a federal appeals court in Washington - denying his last, last-ditch attempt to escape imprisonment.

With no place to turn - Hoffa's lawyers giving up the fight. Deciding it would be a waste of time - to try another appeal to the U S Supreme Court - Hoffa's chief counsel telling him ~~simply~~ simply: "Jim, I'm sorry."

Barring a miracle - Hoffa now has no choice but to report to a U S Marshal tomorrow morning; as ordered, to begin at least - an eight year sentence for jury-tampering.

MIAMI BEACH

A voice once famous the world over -- was stilled forever today. Handsome, dashing Nelson Eddy -- victim of a stroke at Miami Beach, where he collapsed last night -- in the midst of a night club performance.

Nelson Eddy and Jeannette MacDonald -- one of the greatest movie teams of all times. Winning a reputation as "the nation's sweethearts" -- in the Thirties and Forties; largely because of a song they sang -- "Sweethearts" in one of their early pictures. Setting a standard for fairy tale romance -- that has seldom been equaled. The last time I saw him, he was touring Australia with great success and I had just flown in from ^aNew Guinea expedition.

Nelson Eddy -- one of those rare combinations; a favorite of women -- and a man's man to boot. He was sixty-five.

DETROIT

In Detroit - the nation's "Big Three" automakers joined as one today, telling the government they can't possibly comply in toto - with the new list of federal auto safety standards. Can't do it anyway - in time to meet the announced deadline of January one, Nineteen Sixty-Eight.

Biggest stumbling block - according to all three: The rule on "interior impact" - setting safety standards to protect a motorist in the event of a crash; to save him from the so-called "second collision" - should he get bounced around in the car.

G M and Chrysler charging alike - that the "interior impact" rule was not only impossible to meet - but also illegal. The two citing a clause in the new federal safety law - providing that federal standards must be based "upon existing safety standards."

EL SALVADOR

In Central America - government-backed Colonel Fidel Sanchez today claimed election - as the new President of El Salvador. Based on early returns from Sunday balloting, giving Sanchez a better than two to one margin over his combined opposition.

The vote climaxed a bitter campaign - with Sanchez accusing his chief rival of courting support from Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro. The outcome - said Sanchez - showing that the citizens of El Salvador know full well - "the difference between the Communist execution wall and democracy."

JAKARTA

Jakarta. Rumors of pressure on the new military government to retain Sukarno as President of Indonesia. This bringing on a noisy demonstration by some seventy thousand students -- demanding the ouster of Sukarno as even a figurehead President. Further insisting that he be tried for treason -- for his role in that abortive Communist coup of Nineteen Sixty-Five.

Officially there is a ban on such demonstrations. However, government troops were under orders not to intervene with the student protestors. And they didn't -- except to steer them away from public buildings.

PHOENIX

Another story of that strange will -- comes from Phoenix, Arizona. The document penned by an old prospector twenty-one years ago -- back in Nineteen Forty-Six.

James Kidd providing for sale of all his worldly possessions -- with proceeds to go into research, in the hope -- said he -- that someone might one day find "scientific proof" -- that the human body really has a soul.

The old prospector -- vanishing from the face of the earth shortly thereafter, leaving behind an estate valued at about a hundred thousand bucks that has doubled in worth over the years. To the point where nineteen individuals, religious groups and educational organizations -- are now seeking legally to share in the estate; not to mention a thousand more -- who have sent letters to Phoenix; offering their services -- in a search for the human soul.

All in all--Hal Sims-- a soul searching story, would say? And solong until tomorrow.