URBAN

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In Washington - the House today approved legislation - that would create a new federal department of housing and urban development. The legislation aimed at giving the city-dweller - an official voice in the cabinet. Also, to spur government attention - to such pressing city problems as housing and mass transportation. Unget Ironically, it's virtually the same bill - that the House

rejected just three years ago.

TROOPS

12

Six more battalions of American soldiers and marines -- are on their way tonight to Viet Nam. Anywhere from fifteen to twenty thousand - combat and support troops. Raising US military strength in Viet Nam - to a total of more than seventy scox thousand men.

The troop movement disclosed today by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. The reinforcements needed said McNamara - to offset the infiltration of at least eight regular battalions of the North Vietnamese army, the "hard core" of Communist forces in the South - now said to total about sixty-five thousand men; with a back-up force - of a hundred thousand guerrillas.

VIET NAM FOLLOW TROOPS

In Viet Nam itself - those same guerrillas today sprang an ambush on a government column - about fifty miles southwest of Saigon. One American killed another missing - the three seriously wounded - in the guerrilla trap.

In that earlier terrorist bombing at Saigon's civil airport - at least forty-six injured - thirty-six of them Americans. While in the air war - US war planes today flew a total of one hundred and sux seventy strikes against Communist positions in both North and **Bankat** South Viet Nam.

PROTEST

The United States today issued a bitter protest -- to Russian authorities in East Berlin, Against what it called the "senseless murder" - of a West Berlin boatsman. The man who shot dead - and his fiancee critically wounded. When their motorboal drifted into Communist waters - during an outing yesterday on a Berlin Canal. The Russians told to stop such "cold blooded brutality" or the United States will take appropriate measures to see that they do.

The protest, said to be one of the strongest

ever made - in that divided city.

PHILIPPINES

Two passenger trains collided head-on today in the Philippines - about a hundred and eighty miles north of Manila. Early reports indicating at least twelve dead more than thirty injured. The accident blamed on a sleepy despatcher - who failed to notify the next station that a train was on the way. Four men faced a firing squad loday in Teheran for the assassination last January of Iranian Premier Hassan Ali Mansour. They were Mohammed Bokhari - the . twenty-one year old religious fanatic - who actually pulled the trigger - along with three of his accomplices. Nine other conspirators - have been given sentences ranging from five years - to life.

CHICAGO

Archbishop John Patrick Cody of New Orleans today was named the new Archbishop of Chicago. With nearly two and a half million communicants -- the largest Catholic Archdiocese in the United States. He succeeds the late Albert Cardinal Meyer. It also considered almost certain - that he will be named the next American Cardinal.

Archbishop Cody is credited with resolving the bitter segregation issue in Catholic schools - the his three years in New Orleans. He'll face a fox similar problem at Chicago -- where alleged "DeFacto" segregation of the schools - is at present another tense racial issue.

ASTRONAUTS

For the first time since they soared into space -- Jim McDivitt and Ed White were traveling in separate orbit today.'

At Jackson, Michigan -- a mammoth welcome for command pilot McDivitt. The home town boy -- who became as astronaut hero. The crowd estimated at up to three hundred thousand people; about five times the normal population -- of that city.

At San Antonio, Texa's -- another wild and wooly reception for native-born Ed White. With more than a hundred and fifty thousand Texans -- on hand to join in the celebration. Whit's bi-lingual welcome -- featuring a big banner that read: "Viva Blanco." "Viva White."

NEBRASKA

I have just returned from one of the impressive parts of this continent. Although I have crossed the state of Nebraska innumberable times, at all seasons of the year, somehow this time the State seemed bigger than ever. Of course Nebraska is larger than many countries represented at the U.N. From East to West it's five hundred miles across Nebraska.

With Chancellor Hardin and Dean Wittson, I toured the University of Nebraska campus, days graduation ceremonies. The University of Nebraska a most impressive institution.

It was the first time I had attended a commencement there since my father received his medical degree at Nebraska in Eighteen Ninety-Six, an even I attended wearing my first pair of long pants, cut down from a pair of my father's. The University campus is divided; most of it a Lincoln, and the medical center in Omaha; a medical institution so important that distinguished doctors from foreign lands come there to do special work.

As you may have heard -- I had forgotten it -- thousands of

NEBRASKA--2

years ago Nebraska was the home of the elephant, and the camel bng since extinct in A_m erica. At the University of Nebraska they delight in showing big game hunters from Africa the skeleton of the largest elephant in the world, a Nebraska mastadon.

Maybe we should reintroduce the elephant, the camel and other animals -- bring them from Africa to Nebraska! It's a tradition of long-standing in Russia -- as they say, to "liquidate" all stray dogs and cats; any stray animal found roaming the countryside with the approach of warm weather; mainly because of the seasonal outbreak of rabies -- a serious problem in Russia.

It was only last year that Russia's dog lovers -- Internet determines their first concession; a government decree -- recognizing for the first time -- the right of a citizen to keep domestic animals as pets. These same dog-bovers are now banded together officially in an organization called -- "The Society for the Protection of Animals."

If they'd also start a "society for the protection of humans" -- Dick -- they'd really have something.

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BEATLES

That Beatle controversy - still raging today in London. A noted British writer - the latest to turn in his coveted British Empire Medal. With Buckingham Palace said to be deluged with letters - both pro and con.

Be that as it may - strong support for the Beatles is building today - in the House of Commons, Where seven M P's have filed a motion - recognizing - the "great good and happiness the Beatles have brought to millions." Also noting the vast amount of U S Dollars that have flowed into Britain - from the Beatles records, movies and American concert tours.

All this prompting Chief Beatle John Lennon to comment that - of course - they got their British Rxt Empire Said Lennon:-Medals - for boosting British trade. "We didn't get it for being rock 'n roll singers!" - paid Lennon. "Cause" if we did - we'd have got the O.B. E. " O.B.E.

What's that Wetterst stands for "officer of

the order of the British Empire - an even higher award.