

DEFENSE

L.T. - Olds. Tues. Mar. 28 - '61.

In Congress, reactions to the new defense budget - are generally favorable. Specific proposals by President Kennedy are being criticized - for example, the decision not to go ahead with the big B-70 bomber. But as far as the positive side of this defense bill is concerned - there's almost no dissent from the President's assertion, that this is what our national security demands.

Some Republicans are making noting that the Kennedy measure doesn't mention - one controversial point. That old issue of a missile gap. Does it exist - or doesn't it? Mr. Kennedy made much of his version of the missile gap - during the campaign. But all he ~~says~~ says in his defense request is - "it has been publicly acknowledged, for several years, that this nation has not led the world in missile strength."

Anyway, let's take a look at - some particulars in the Kennedy budget. Over forty three billion dollars - to be spent during the next fiscal year. An increase of

two billion - over the Eisenhower estimates. That much, to give us - thirteen hundred combat missiles by Nineteen Sixty Five. Our bomber force - will be strengthened. Our conventional forces - better prepared for service in limited wars. And the building of Polaris submarines - will be stepped up. The new schedule, calling for one-a-month by Nineteen Sixty Three.

PLANE

President Kennedy is asking Congress to authorize ten million dollars for a single plane. Moreover, the ten million would cover - only preliminary work. Cost of finishing the job - fifteen million. As you can guess - this plane is something special in the history of aviation. A supersonic transport that will fly - three times the speed of sound. ~~Zooming~~ From New York to London - in two hours.

SPACE

The space bill that went from the White House to Capitol Hill today - calls for an increase of a hundred and ~~in~~ twenty-five million dollars. Eleven percent above the figure - set by the Eisenhower administration.

President Kennedy, speeding up the development of rockets - that will probe outer space. Putting more money into the manned space ships - that will fly through our solar system, by the end of this decade. Landing men on the moon - ~~perhaps~~ possibly in Nineteen Seventy One.

SEATO

That difference of opinion at the Seato conference is Bangkok - is not serious. Secretary of State Rusk said after today's session - that he expects unanimous agreement on the problem of how to help Laos.

Meanwhile, the split - is there, for the moment. America, Pakistan, and the Philippines--urging a strong statement now. A blunt threat of military intervention by Seato - if the Communist aggression against Laos continues. But Britain, Australia and New Zealand - are more cautious. Preferring to avoid any declaration - until the West receives Khrushchev's answer to the British note on Laos. France - also adopting a "wait and see" attitude.

~~was~~ It's pointed out - there's no basic disagreement in Bangkok. Khrushchev may hold up his reply - until this Seato conference is over. If he does, it's evident that the Commonwealth spokesmen will join their allies - in a common demand that the freedom of Laos be guaranteed.

LAOS

The fighting in Laos has ~~diminished~~ ^{slackened} - for two reasons. In the first place - the Communist rebels seem to have been too successful. Advancing so rapidly - they out-ran their supply lines. The ~~foremost~~ ^{is advance} patrols, forced to halt - until food and ammunition ^{catch up.} ~~reach them.~~

Secondly, the rainy season has arrived. In Southeast Asia - the monsoon - several weeks ahead of schedule. Dumping torrents of rain - on the Laotian jungle. On the troops - fighting there. The Communist advance, stopped by ~~the primeval forces of nature,~~ Bugged down - in rain and mud. The age-old fate of armies caught in mid-campaign - by the monsoon.

Even so, the situation is growing graver - for the Laotian defenders. Communist forces are reported streaming across the border - from Communist north Viet Nam into Laos. A massive build-up behind the lines. The Reds, evidently

making every effort to strengthen their position - at
the bargaining table. Or - in a new campaign, if the
truce talks break down.

RUSSIAN

Here's the story of the Soviet worker - who went in for a bit of capitalism on the side. Fyodor Kuznetsov - a bootmaker of Tils' in Central Russia. Fyodor, the best bootmaker - in his province. So good, he received permission to work at home- instead of in the community workshop. His superiors were ~~at~~ satisfied because - he always turned in his quota on schedule. Fifteen pairs of felt boots - every month.

Ah, but comrade Kuznetsov was actually turning out - sixty-five pairs a month. Selling the extra fifty - on the side. Pocketing - the proceeds. Business so good he hired a couple of workers to operate his machine. His free enterprise brought him a fortune - of two million rubles. Also - three houses, two cars, ~~in~~ two motorcycles and a motorboat. Not to mention a few lady friends - here and there.

But all this prosperity seemed a bit excessive - when the inspector came around. An investigation - was

ordered. Ending today - with the defendant going to jail.

Capitalism was great while it lasted - for bootmaker

Kuznetsov of Tilst.

Sounds as if there ought to be a limerick -

in this story. Let's see. "There once was a comrade

of Tilst." I wonder - what rhymes ^(with) ~~to~~ Tilst?
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WEATHER

The
Many floods in the midwest ~~are worse tonight.~~ *— no better.*

Hardest hit, northeastern Iowa - where the Cedar River is at its highest ~~fixed~~ crest on record. Smashing through sandbag levies - at Waterloo, Waverly, and Charles City. More than a thousand residents of the Cedar Valley - have fled to higher ground. Tonight, watching the flood waters battering their cities - as the ~~Iowa~~ National Guard fights to stem the tide.

Farther west - more snow. The blizzard that hit Montana yesterday ~~blowing into~~ *— now over* Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. Denver ~~is under a blanket~~ *getting another* of nine inches - with the snow still falling. *— so maybe more.*

COLLEGES

Whatever the weatherman may say - our colleges have decided that spring is really here. Proving it - with typical campus extra-curricular activities.

Ten students from the University of Illinois - claim they've set a new record for bed-pushing. They hauled a double-decker bed out onto the highway - at Champaign. Then they took turns pushing it - to Chicago. A distance of - a hundred and thirty-five miles. Snarling traffic along the way - but insisting that they never allowed their bed to stop moving.

Meanwhile, at Ohio's Bowling Green State University - there was less activity today. In fact - practically none at all. The students, boycotting their classes - after two campus demonstrations. Threatening to stay out - until their demands are met. Demands like - a relaxation of the curfew at the co-eds' dormitories.

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida - a more serious

breach of the peace. Vacationing students from many colleges, rioting - two nights in a row. Result - paddy wagon, roaring from the scene ^{to} ~~of~~ the pokey. Two hundred and twenty five students - arrested. Fifty-six ~~given~~ given jail terms. Nineteen - fined.

A lot of Americans are bailing flood water - and digging snow. ^{while} ~~But~~ on the college campuses, the ~~big~~ problem is - spring fever. Even Dick No-el has it.

PILOT

The U.S. Air Force may gain a recruit from -
the Yugoslav Air Force. Pilot Dusan Conic - used to fly
for Tito. Finally he became fed up - with Communism.
Especially the censorship - forbidding any criticism of
the Dictator. One night pilot Conic went down to the
Zagreb airfield - and boarded a small military plane.
Zooming off - before anyone could stop him. Flying to
Vienna - and freedom. Now he's in America - looking for
a job in aviation. Preferably - in the U.S. Air Force.