

PARIS

Fri. May 24-68.

The big news tonight -- again from Paris; where DeGaulle demands all -- or nothing at all.

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The French President -- taking briefly to *France* nationwide television, Admitting for the first time -- that strikebound France is now "on the edge of paralysis;" And then -- the bombshell.

DeGaulle calling for a national referendum next month -- to grant him full powers to deal with the crisis -- to avoid the threat of Civil War. If the vote is a "massive out" -- said he -- "you will have expressed your confidence in me; I will undertake -- with the public powers -- to make changes everywhere necessary." If the vote is no -- he added -- "it follows that I would no longer assume my functions;" in other words -- ~~that~~ resign.

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This the same threat DeGaulle used in Nineteen-Sixty-Two -- in pressing for direct election of a President. Will it work again? Only time can tell.

HANOI

Preliminary peace talks in Paris -- billed at the start as perhaps "the beginning of the end." Two weeks later in Hanoi -- a sudden turn of events today; threatening perhaps -- an "end of the beginning."

North Vietnam's Premier Pham Van Dong -- the man who may have delivered the mortal blow. Calling the United States clearly the aggressor in Vietnam -- regardless of anything said at Paris. Adding that "we" -- meaning the North Vietnamese -- "categorically reject stupid U. S. arguments of reciprocity, mutual de-escalation and mutual concession."

Dong's words echoed in Paris -- by a North Vietnamese press spokesman, ~~who~~ also called the President's latest plea for a scaling down of the fighting -- an "absurd" idea; one, ~~→~~ said he, ~~←~~ that shows "the United States is not acting in good faith." Summing up -- he added that Hanoi will accept nothing less ~~than~~ a complete, unconditional and immediate end of U. S. bombing.

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VIETNAM

From the fighting front -- in Vietnam -- news today of a lucky hit -- with costly consequences. One Viet Cong rocket -- slamming into a fuel tank at Camp Evans near Hue. Resulting fire -- setting off an ammunition dump. Resulting blast -- knocking out more than one hundred U. S. helicopters.

Luckily -- casualties were "light". But as one U. S. serviceman was later heard to remark -- "man, it was really hairy."

Back in Saigon -- a stalemate over selection of South Vietnam's new pacification chief; solved finally -- by Premier-designate Tran Van Huong. For the time being -- he'll take the job himself.

CHICAGO

On the U. S. political front -- a big boost today
for Hubert Hunphrey. With Illinois State Treasurer Adlai
Stevenson^{the Third} -- strongly endorsing the Vice President's
Presidential campaign. Stevenson calling Humphrey -- a
"healer of wounds"; a man who "can renew our faith in
America" -- because "he is, above all, for peace."

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ATLANTA FOLLOW CHICAGO

On the Republican side -- Governor Rockefeller continues his southern tour. In Atlanta -- the Governor launching a double-barreled attack today; against Senator Robert Kennedy -- also Richard Nixon. Rockefeller asserting flatly: "We cannot be double-talked into national unity -- by Democrats or Republicans." Adding that Nixon's recent position papers -- are "an exercise in political fantasy."

However, the Governor saving his most scathing remarks -- for fellow New Yorker Kennedy. Calling the Democratic contender, in effect -- a "political Chameleon." Rockefeller quoting Governor Reagan of California -- as having said recently of Kennedy: "I get the feeling -- that I've ~~caps~~ been writing some of his speeches."

PORTLAND FOLLOW ATLANTA

On to Oregon -- a surprising development today; in the final stages of campaigning for that State's Tuesday presidential primary. Professional poll-takers reporting a sudden hostility to Senator Kennedy among Oregon labor circles; also a surprising resurgence for President Johnson -- whose name is still on the ballot. According to latest opinion surveys -- the President expected to draw -- perhaps as much as thirty per cent of the total vote.

BIKINI

Next - ~~the~~ question: "Whatever became of Bikini?" Not the bathing suit, ~~of course~~ rather the island; that Pacific atoll - site of some twenty nuclear detonations in the early atomic age.

~~Answer from the National Geographic. Reporting today that~~ Contrary to ~~exped~~ expectations - Bikini's life systems have now all but healed themselves. Less than ten years since the ~~last~~ last explosion - Flora and Fauna fully restored. Even coconuts again in abundance -- seemingly unaffected by residual radioactivity.

says the Nat. Geog'ic,
Still missing though - the handsome ~~bikinians~~ _^;

about two ~~hundreds~~ hundred in all - who were transported to distant Kiki Island in Nineteen Forty-Six. An Atomic Energy Commission study later this year ^{is} _^ expected to determine when - if ever - they can return home.

MIAMI

Down Florida way -- another hurricane season is just about to begin. In preparation ~~for~~^{for} which -- the Miami Weather Bureau today announc~~es~~^{ed} its official list of hurricane names for Sixty-Eight.

First storm of the season -- to be called Abby.

Next -- Brenda, Candy, Dolly, Edna, Frances and so on;

if necessary -- all the way up to Roxie, ~~Stella~~^{Suzann}, Trudy,

Vesta -- and finally ~~Wesley~~ Zazza? Warren,

~~do you think~~ now how about Zazza?

~~Wesley? Wonder how he (oops) got in there?~~

CASPER

From a movie location near Casper, Wyoming -- a reported close call today for film star John Wayne. Waiting for lunch ^{Duke Wayne was} in his dressing room trailer ~~at~~ when a giant food catering truck overturned outside, ~~Smashing~~ in the steel frame of ~~the~~ trailer ^{his} -- ~~also~~ ^{and} shattering ~~several~~ ^{the} windows.

Movie-hero Wayne -- who was not hurt -- quickly rushed outside to survey the damage. Friends later reporting ^{he was so} ~~he was more than a little~~ upset. ~~Indeed, John~~ ^{he even said!} ~~Wayne quoted as saying:~~ "Oh, Hell -- there goes the soup."

And s-l-u-Monday.