

PROTESTANTS

*L.T. Buick, Fisher, Fri. Apr. 1st. '66.*

A plan designed to merge twenty million American Protestants into a single church <sup>*was unveiled*</sup> ~~disclosed~~ today in Washington. The work of a Protestant unity commission--headed by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake--newly-elected General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

The plan calling for eventual union--of the Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the Disciples of Christ, the United Church of Christ, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren. The whole process--to take anywhere from five to thirteen years.

Officials of the seven denominations--to vote on the proposed merger at a meeting next month in Dallas.

## INFLATION

President Johnson <sup>as you know, was</sup> accused yesterday by top  
Republicans--of making a tax increase unavoidable. ~~Because--~~  
said they--the present Administration"does not have the wish  
nor the wit nor the will" to cut Federal spending.

47  
The President's reply--delivered today to a  
White House meeting of Cabinet members and Federal agency  
heads. The chief executive urging his official family--to  
explore all possible means of reducing Federal spending  
programs. Hopefully--by as much as a billion dollars--over  
the next three months. First, to combat inflation--and  
second, to reduce an expected Federal deficit.

No official ceilings--or quotas. The President's  
rule of thumb--as he put it: Simply "To do what is necessary--  
and not what is desirable."

## VIETNAM

The toll from that Communist terrorist blast in Saigon -- now set at seven dead, a hundred and thirteen injured. Three of the dead and all of the injured -- American military personnel. The front of their ten-story billet -- said to look as if it had been hit by a giant demolition ball.

On the fighting front -- news today of the capture of a Communist weapons factory -- only twenty miles from Saigon. U.S. Marines storming a fortified village -- to seize the underground arsenal; taking arms including a number of carbines -- and more than a thousand hand grenades.

Meanwhile, the third most powerful man in Saigon's ruling military junta a virtual hostage today at Hue. Lieut. General Pham Xuan Chieu -- held by angry anti-government student demonstrators -- whom he had come to pacify.

At the same time -- Americans in the area told to stay off the streets. In the face of an expected massive demonstration tomorrow by Buddhists -- in<sup>an</sup>/all-out effort to topple the Ky government.

REDS

Anti-war demonstrators in the United States--  
roundly praised today. ~~But~~, consider the source. The  
praise from a leader of the Communist Viet Cong--at that  
continuing Soviet Party Congress in Moscow.

Miss Nguyen Thi Binh of the Viet Cong political  
arm--asserting that so-called "progressive people in America"  
--are one and the same with Russia, China and other socialist  
countries. This--said she, quote--"in their struggle  
against the aggressive war waged by the Johnson Administration  
in South Viet Nam"--unquote.

The speaker later praising Russia--as the Viet  
Cong's "true combat friend." <sup>This</sup> In effect,  
~~And it~~ ~~that~~ drew a standing ovation. ~~that~~ A backhand slap at Red China--

49  
1

ARMS FOLLOW REDS

At the same session--a major address today by Soviet Defense Minister Malinovsky, who said that Russia has recently developed--a "whole complex" of new strategic weapons. Including a fleet of nuclear-armed Polaris-type submarines--capable of cruising underwater the world over.

Soviet Armed Forces <sup>are</sup>--"ready for any contingency"--said Malinovsky; with "everything necessary--to destroy any aggressor"--said he.

BRITAIN

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson--bold and  
*Following*  
brassy today, ~~off~~ his tremendous victory--in yesterday's  
Parliamentary election.

Assured a Labor majority of more than a hundred  
seats--Wilson vowing "to build a new Britain". To do it--  
said he--by whatever measures necessary--whether they be  
"popular or unpopular." Adding that he now intends to  
speak up for Britain--with greater authority, ~~On disarmament~~  
--on peace--on other world problems.

DEGAULLE

DeGaulle of France today put a stopper to published reports--that he plans to abandon the French commitment in West Berlin. This supposedly in line with his recent decision--to abandon NATO.

Not so--says DeGaulle. Adding that Berlin--is an entirely separate matter. That French occupation troops will remain in the divided city--alongside British and U.S. Forces--~~as long~~<sup>as long</sup> as they are needed. Thus, "there is no question of withdrawing from Berlin"--said he.

As for NATO--DeGaulle's determination to dismatle that organization--now virtually assured of French Parliamentary approval. The powerful French Communist Party--which has fought DeGaulle ~~tooth-and-nail~~<sup>tooth-and-nail</sup> in the past --today finally endorsing the move.

LADYBIRD

Pretty nearly recovered from a recent throat infection--Mrs. Lyndon Johnson flew today to her home state. There to launch a five-day trail-blazing tour of Texas--as part of her own national beautification program.

First stop--San Antonio. Then on to Big Bend National Park on the Rio Grande--pioneer Fort Davis in West Texas--and finally a stop at the LBJ Ranch. Where--hopefully--she'll be able to complete her recuperation.



GANDHI

For Madame Indira Gandhi of India--a brief visit today to the United Nations; ~~There~~ to discuss with U.N. Secretary General U Thant--possible ways and means of ending the war in Viet Nam.

Her six-day American tour now at an end--the Indian prime minister heads next for London--and then Moscow. For final talks with British and Soviet leaders--before returning home.

WILLARD PRICE

Do you enjoy travel books? If so, don't miss a new one just out by ~~that~~ veteran American traveler and writer Willard Price.

1/2  
On my recent ski jaunt, in the High Sierra, and the mountains of Utah, and Colorado, I have been reading AMERICA'S PARADISE LOST by Willard Price.

I wonder how many of us realize that we are now the number one colonial power - in control of by far the largest remaining ~~colony~~ colonial area, some two thousand islands spread over the vast far Pacific. Willard Price calls these islands -- many are atolls - a real paradise. The loveliest on earth - these ~~are~~ islands of Micronesia.

2  
You heard about Truk, Saipan, Tarawa and many of the others during the war. But now this talented and articulate traveler tells us the story of these islands that fell into our lap during WorldWar Two, in an exciting book that lifts the veil of mystery from Micronesia, ~~Warren~~, Warren.

## HYENA

At long last -- a good word today for the laughing hyena. Perhaps the most maligned creature -- in the animal kingdom. The name itself -- generally considered synonymous with scavenger -- or sneaky coward.

The good word from a Dutch zoologist -- assigned to the Serengeti Research Institute in Tanzania. After months of study -- Dr. Hans Kruuk reporting that hyenas are excellent hunters. Wide-ranging nighttime marauders -- who can easily catch a zebra or wildbeast -- and quickly bring him down.

I've heard much the same praise for the hyena from animal expert, the lovely Michela Dennis, in Nairobi.

An now along with the hyena -- shall we all laugh? Too bad we haven't a hyena sound effects record of the laughing hyena.