

Enactment of a new, improved "Viet Nam G I  
bill" <sup>was</sup> <sub>^</sub> urged today by President Johnson in another special  
message to Congress. ~~As envisioned by the President~~  
~~it would~~ <sup>to</sup> <sub>^</sub> also ~~expand~~ benefits for servicemen, veterans  
and even civilians; who have served their country on  
hazardous duty - anywhere in the world.

For one thing - it would raise the scale of G I  
insurance - to a maximum of thirty thousand dollars;  
instead of the present - ten thousand, ~~less~~. In addition, it  
would raise by more than five percent - the pensions of  
nearly a ~~mill~~ million-and-a-half veterans, widows and  
dependents.

VIET NAM

News from Viet Nam tells today - of a secret Viet Cong document captured by U S troops - in that drive through the Iron Triangle last week.

The document said to indicate that the Viet Cong have lost control - of more than a million South Vietnamese over the past year. Also admitting the Viet Cong have suffered a serious decline - in both the quantity and quality of new recruits.

Main reason - said the document: "The presence of U S troops." With the result - said the Viet Cong - that "we have failed to win many people over to our side."

Be that as it may <sup>there was</sup> another surge of Viet Cong activity today - in the Saigon area. Communist terrorists killing four and wounding seventeen - including two American servicemen.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW VIET NAM

Here at home - ~~a massive unity~~ <sup>there was an</sup> anti-war

demonstration today in Washington. About two thousand ministers, priests, rabbis and laymen from forty-five states - holding a silent prayer-vigil in front of the White House, To protest what they called - "the immorality of the warfare in Viet Nam."

SENATE

Edwin O. Reischauer - former U S Ambassador  
to Japan, <sup>USA</sup> today's expert witness ~~at~~ the Senate's new round  
of foreign policy hearings. Asserting that America has  
tended for years - to over-estimate both the strength and the  
threat of Red China.

Reischauer saying that internal strife in  
China - has now shown "how backward and troubled that  
country really is." Further, ~~stating~~ that we should ~~xxxx~~  
place more emphasis - on finding ways to bring the Chinese  
into <sup>worth while</sup> ~~meaningful~~ contact with us and other nations."

Reischauer stressed, however, that he was not  
advocating - "any sudden shift" in U S policy; but only  
long-range goals - in the Far East. The immediate job -  
said he - to achieve "a much more satisfactory solution  
of the Viet Nam problem - than is now in sight."

RED CHINA

*A new and ominous note sounded today - in the current power struggle in Red China itself. The Chinese Army commander in Sinkiang Province - reportedly threatening to seize control of China's Nuclear arsenal! unless Chairman Mao Tse Tung - gives in to certain of his demands.*

*This according to a Hong Kong newspaper - based on information from travelers. The newspaper further identifying the rebellious general - as Wang En-Mao; an appointee of President Liu Shao-Chi - chairman Mao's chief opponent. Adding that Premier Chou En-Lai - has now been assigned the task of mollifying General Wang.*

JAKAR TA

*In Jakarta -- a temporary moratorium today - ~~is~~  
on student demonstrations against President Sukarno of  
Indonesia. Student leaders - agreeing to call off their  
anti-Sukarno movement for two weeks. Warning, however,  
that student protests will resume - if the National Congress  
fails to fire Sukarno within that time.*

*The student statement - apparently issued with  
full army support. Military sources adding that Indonesia's  
new ~~military~~ military strongman - General Suharto - has  
already summoned ten battalions of loyal troops from his  
native West Java. A ~~force~~ force said to be more than  
capable of handling Sukarno's remaining supporters in  
Jakarta -- in the event of a military showdown.*

CONGO

The threat of a new crisis -- brewing today in the Congo. Congolese President Joseph Mobutu -- barring some forty Belgian women and children from leaving the country. This prompting a sharp demand from the Belgian government -- for immediate action to permit their departure.

Mobutu -- attempting to force the Belgians to give a year's notice before leaving. The Belgians contending, however, that this is a clear violation -- of the International Human Rights Treaty; and they say -- they won't stand for it.

## ASTRONAUTS

A last salute -- a final farewell; and then -- the mournful sound of taps. This three times -- today; once at West Point -- twice at Arlington National Cemetery, for the three men who died so tragically in Apollo-One.

Virgil "Gus" Grissom -- America's first two flight astronaut; Ed White -- the first American to walk in space; and Roger Chaffee -- of the third generation of astronauts; all of them now in hallowed ground -- in the company of other American heroes.



## SAN ANTONIO

*By grim ~~and~~ coincidence - another space age  
tragedy today - at Brooks Air Force Base, ~~in~~ San Antonio,  
Texas. Almost a carbon ~~copy~~ copy of the disaster at Cape  
Kennedy.*

*Two airmen working in a space cabin simulator -  
filled with pure oxygen - when it suddenly burst into flame.  
Killing one of the airmen instantly - and leaving the other  
near death. Once again - an investigation is now under way.*

## SAFETY

After months of controversy - a compromise at last tonight - between the new National Traffic Safety Agency - and the U S Auto industry, ~~On~~ a final list of safety standards - to be required of all Nineteen Sixty-eight model cars.

The Federal agency - modifying six of ~~xxxx~~ its original twenty three safety proposals, ~~and~~ withdrawing three others ~~x~~ at least temporarily; and extending by four months - the deadline for full compliance. In the face of complaints from U S automakers ~~that~~ they would be unable to meet all the requirements - within the time earlier allowed.

The three standards withdrawn - relating to tires, tire rims and head=rests.

## SEPPALA

As you may have heard, one of the best known personalities in the history of Arctic America passed away over the weekend -- Leonhard Seppala, perhaps the number one dog team driver of all time. Seppala was an incredibly tough, charming little man from an island off the coast of Arctic Norway. Son of a blacksmith, as a boy he worked as a smithy, which partly accounts for his unusual strength. He was only five feet four.

In the days of the early gold stampede, Seppala<sup>?</sup> was lured to Nome, on Bering Sea. There he became famous, first for winning dog sled races -- the All-Alaska Sweepstakes three times, the Yukon Derby twice. He broke many records, with his dogs known in the North as the Seppala Siberians. And of course he carried the serum on most of the long dangerous runs, to save the people of Nome, the year of the diptheria epidemic in 1925.

SEPPALA--2

In Nineteen Eight the daughter of a Belgian diamond cutter of Antwerp, came to America and somehow wound up in the midst of the great gold rush to the North. In Nineteen Fifteen the miners voted her "The Queen of Nome," -- and as Queen she watched Sepp win the All-Alaska Sweepstakes. Connie and Sep, a romantic couple, then had a long and happy life together.

I have just talked to her on the long distance telephone, asking what now happens to Sepp's impressive room full of trophies silver cups, silver bowls and so on. Connie tells ~~me~~ me the entire collection has been turned over to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. -9

## OXFORD

*From across the Atlantic - the story today of a roaring welcome for U S Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii; on his ~~xxx~~ arrival for a speaking engagement - at Oxford University.*

*Fong quickly winning over his audience - with the remark that "coming to England is" - for him "like coming home." The gentleman from Hawaii explaining: "I am part English." Because -- said he -- "my great-great grandfather - ate Captain Cook."*

## NATICK

A revolutionary new concept in troop feeding was unveiled today for the first time at a U.S. Army laboratory in Natick, Massachusetts. The concept consisting mainly of a new mobile kitchen -- especially designed for field use; complete with two microwave ovens -- a grill -- a refrigerator -- an oven toaster -- an incinerator -- and even a sink.

The kitchen said to need a staff -- of only one cook and one assistant. Yet capable of turning out two hundred hot meals an hour -- under combat conditions -- so we're told. With the additional capability of baking thirty pounds of cake mix -- in forty-five seconds; as well as thirty pounds of bread dough -- in less than two minutes.

The new concept already has an army name. It's called -- Speed; which stands for subsistence preparation by electronic energy diffusion. Hal Simms, does that whet your appetite? And solong until tomorrow.