

# Incredible, Bobby Says

# Report RFK Offered Deal To LBJ: 'I Won't Run, If—'

## PACIFIC STAR STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

10¢

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# 2-Price Gold System OK'd

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States and its six gold pool partners agreed Sunday to let private speculators buy and sell gold at whatever price the market demands, but to continue to exchange gold at \$35 an ounce among trading nations.

In a joint statement released after a two-day conference here the central governors of the seven countries said they would no longer supply gold to the London gold market or any other gold market, nor would they buy gold from the market.

This decision, in effect, meant the abolition of the gold pool, the informal arrangement that the seven nations used to handle billion transactions.

The decision ends a seven- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

## Gold Market Stays Closed

LONDON (UPI)—British banks will reopen Monday but the London gold market, its future in doubt after the momentous weekend meeting of central bankers in Washington, will remain closed until April 1, it was announced Sunday night.

The announcement was made by the Bank of England.

British banks, the gold markets and stock exchanges all closed Friday.

The bank said the decision to keep the London gold market—which has acted as banker for the seven-nation international gold pool—closed until April 1 was part of the arrangements concluded in Washington.



## Protesters Block Willy Brandt

West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt (center) tries to fight his way through left-wing demonstrators who blocked his entrance to his political party's national convention in Nuernberg. He was shoved and jeered before police opened the way for him. (AP Radiophoto)

# Allies Slash Reds Near Saigon, Kill 135

By SPEC. 5 RAY BELFORD  
S&S Staff Correspondent

SAIGON — U.S. and Vietnamese soldiers killed 135 Communists Saturday during a bloody 6½-hour battle 16 miles northwest of Saigon as the allies continued their massive Quyet Thang offensive.

In another battle, 63 Reds were killed by units from the 3rd Marine Div. two miles west of Gio Linh near the DMZ.

In the fighting near Saigon, a cavalry troop from the U.S. 11th

Armored Cav. Regt. was supporting the 51st Vietnamese Ranger Bn. when the joint force ran up against an estimated reinforced enemy company at about 11:30 a.m. near Duc Hoa. The U.S.-Vietnamese force attacked while Air Force jets bombed and strafed the enemy positions until the Reds fled.

The allies were also supported by U.S. Army helicopter gunships and artillery.

In addition to the 135 enemy killed, 13 individual weapons,

three rocket-propelled grenade launchers and three machine guns were captured.

There were no U.S. casualties and government casualties were said to be light.

In the first five days of the operation 639 Communists have been killed — 396 by U.S. forces and 263 by the Vietnamese.

U.S. casualties are 30 killed and 248 wounded. Government casualties are described as light.

It was a bitter six-hour battle along the southern edge of the

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy offered to stay out of presidential contention if President Johnson would appoint a commission with authority to change Vietnam war policy, an aide to the senator said Sunday.

But the President turned down the offer, Kennedy's press secretary said, and the New York Democrat went ahead with his Saturday announcement that he will seek to take the Democratic presidential nomination away from Johnson.

This disclosure came a few hours after the Columbia Broadcasting System and the American Broadcasting Co., and Time and Newsweek magazines put out similar reports.

The only immediate administration comment came from Assistant Secretary of Defense Phil G. Goulding, who confirmed Kennedy and Sorensen talked with Clifford Thursday in Clifford's office.

Goulding, the Pentagon's press spokesman, said:

"Later that day, Secretary Clifford informed President (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## Terrorists In Rhodesia

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Radio South Africa reported Sunday night that Rhodesian troops and police were moving to the Zambezi valley to counter an invasion across the Kariba Dam by terrorists from Zambia in canoes.

The broadcast said that local Africans had told security forces along the northern border they had seen terrorists crossing over to Rhodesia from Zambia in canoes.

Saturday night notices were flashed across the screens in Salisbury cinemas calling on all troops on leave to report for duty immediately, and military police scoured Salisbury night clubs and bars for more troops.

DMZ for the Leathernecks.

The heavy fighting reportedly erupted when two companies of Marines tangled with an estimated Communist battalion while on a sweep two miles west of Gio Linh.

The Marines called for air strikes and artillery fire. Under heavy bombardment, the Communists fled to the north and the Marines took up the chase.

About half a mile north of the first encounter, about 100 North (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

# America's Newest Warplane

## F111s in Thailand for Combat Test

S&S Vietnam Bureau  
 SAIGON—Six Air Force variable-sweep wing F111A fighter-bombers have arrived at Takli Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand to begin evaluation under combat conditions in Vietnam, the U.S. Command announced Sunday.

The new, and highly-controversial, airplanes are the most advanced and versatile aircraft to be added to the U.S. Air

Force's inventory in the air war over Vietnam.

The six F111's flew from Nellis AFB, Nev., non-stop to Andersen AFB, Guam, where the crews rested before flying on to Takli. They will make up Det. 1 of the 428th Tactical Fighter Sq. of the 427th Tactical Fighter Wing.

The planes are described as a multipurpose aircraft, capable

of performing various tactical air missions including counter-air interdiction, close air support and reconnaissance.

The F111 can perform in any weather, day or night and can operate from short, unimproved airfields.

The plane is supersonic, capable of speeds over 2½ times the speed of sound, and can fly from 70 to 100 per cent farther on in-

ternal fuel than any other operational fighter. (The F111A has flown from the East Coast to Paris on internal fuel alone.)

According to an Air Force report, the F111A's performance level already is superior to other tactical aircraft in the inventory.

No date was given on when the plane will get its first taste of combat.

# May Pull Filipinos From Viet

MANILA (UPI)—Orders will be issued this week to remove the Philippines' 2,000 man engineering battalion from Vietnam if the congress here fails to appropriate necessary funds by March 20, Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata said Sunday.

The Defense Secretary said he was still hopeful the congress would act early this week. But, he said, last year's \$9 million appropriation was almost exhausted and if no more funds were available "we've got to take some steps."

Mata said many of the Filipino troops, known as the Philippine civic action group or Philcag, were due for rotation home this month but that "replacement units" were ready to be sent to Vietnam on short notice.

The House of Representatives passed a new appropriations for Philcag in late February but the measure has been pending in the Senate.

Mata said if no action were taken by next Wednesday he would set in motion withdrawal plans.

# U.S. Raiders Blast N. Viet Railroads

S&S Vietnam Bureau  
 SAIGON—U.S. Navy pilots from the carrier Kitty Hawk bombed the Yen Vien railroad yard six miles northeast of Hanoi and downed two spans and cut an approach to the Kin An highway bridge less than two miles southwest of Haiphong as U.S. pilots continued to blast key targets in the Hanoi-Haiphong area Saturday.

The Yen Vien railroad yard sits in the junction of the vital northwest and northeast rail lines of North Vietnam which links the Communist country with China. No damage reports were given.

Navy pilots also blasted another vital rail link in North Vietnam's two largest cities, Hanoi and Haiphong.

Navy and Air Force pilots also hit several other key targets along North Vietnam's rail links with Communist China, hitting the Ky Dong railroad spur and storage area 113 miles northwest of Hanoi, the Som Tra railroad yard 94 miles northwest and the My Coi railroad siding 40 miles northeast of the Communist capital.

Other Air Force pilots radar-bombed North Vietnam's largest MIG airfield at Phuc Yen, but no damage reports were given.

During the day, Navy, Air Force and Marine pilots flew 90 missions north of the DMZ, as poor weather continued to protect targets in large sections of the Communist country.

A U.S. spokesman said the weather over North Vietnam would begin to start clearing toward the end of the month.

U.S. Air Force B52s flew nine missions over South Vietnam Saturday night and early Sunday, dumping hundreds of tons of bombs on Communist targets in the republic. Three of the strikes were in support of U.S. Marines in the Khe Sanh area.



**Wheeeeeew!**

U.S. Marines take cover behind sandbags (top) as the plane they're waiting for is shelled at Khe Sanh. Later, they are all smiles (bottom) at 6,000 feet in the air, far away from the Communist firepower. (AP Radiophotos)

# Confident Of Win at Khe Sanh

DONG HA, Vietnam (UPI) — United States Marines will score a smashing success over the North Vietnamese at Khe Sanh, the commanding general of Leathernecks along the Demilitarized Zone said Saturday.

Maj. Gen. R. McC. Tompkins, the graying chief of the 3rd Marine Div., said the 20,000 Communists poised around Khe Sanh would launch a massive attack against the threatened base.

"And I'm sure the Marines will inflict a heavy defeat on the North Vietnamese," he said. "Air and artillery power will make a great difference. However, in the final analysis, the fortitude of the people manning Khe Sanh will bring the final payoff."

Tompkins said, however, that he had "no intelligence" that the Communists were planning an all out offensive at this time.

Asked if the Reds intend to attack Khe Sanh in the next couple of weeks, he said "I've been looking for them to attack Khe Sanh since Jan. 18. I don't know when the attack will begin."

# Heroes Recall Hanoi Raid

## 'I Think Everyone Was Shooting at Us'

SAIGON (UPI) — Two Navy pilots Sunday recounted a pre-dawn mission over Hanoi in a crippled aircraft — a mission which won them the Navy's highest award for valor — the Navy Cross.

They are Cmdr. Jerrold M. Zacharias, 41, of Virginia Beach, Va., and Lt. Cmdr. Michael L. Hall, 30, of Amarillo, Tex.

Flying low in an A6 Intruder, the two pilots were the last over the Hanoi port facility when it was first hit early on the morning of Feb. 24.

"We were the last ones in. I think everyone was shooting at us," said Zacharias. "We came in 20 minutes behind the other aircraft and everybody was awake by them.

"On the way out we went low over the city. I've never seen so much flak in my life — most of it going off around the aircraft.

"This was my first trip to downtown Hanoi and all I can say is that they've got plenty of defenses around that town."

The plane was hit on the way in. Flak made a hole in its right wing, about 18 inches from the cockpit and eight inches from the wing fuel cell. At this time, seven miles and a few minutes from Hanoi, they had already had two surface-to-air missiles fired at them.

"It was a bright intense light coming towards us," said Zacharias describing the first of the missiles. "Five minutes later there was another off the right wing. We dodged. It exploded, and the plane was buffeted."

Then the plane was hit in the wing. The pilots said they flew on into a target area "lit up by flak."

On the way out through "dense and accurate" flak, the pilots had to dodge two more surface-to-air missiles. Each of the planes before them had had to evade three or four of the missiles.

"I could see the SAMS (surface-to-air missiles) lift off and head in our direction," said Hall.

Zacharias said the whole ordeal lasted only four or five minutes. They were overland only 20 minutes.

"We got out of the Red River Delta and were over the mountains," Zacharias recalled, "I remember thinking as we got over the mountains how peaceful it was, and what a magni-

ficent weapons system this plane is."

The A6 Intruder, though comparatively slow and subsonic has proved one of the most successful bombers over North Vietnam. In the monsoon season with its "black box" radar system, it is chosen before faster planes to participate in key target missions.

Zacharias said their crippled plane was unable to risk refueling and had to make it back to their carrier, the Kitty Hawk, and land with less than half-an-hour's fuel.

It was Zacharias 48th mission over North Vietnam. He is married with three children, Jerrold, Dana and David. Hall, the son of Col. and Mrs. F. Whitney Hall, was making his 120th mission.

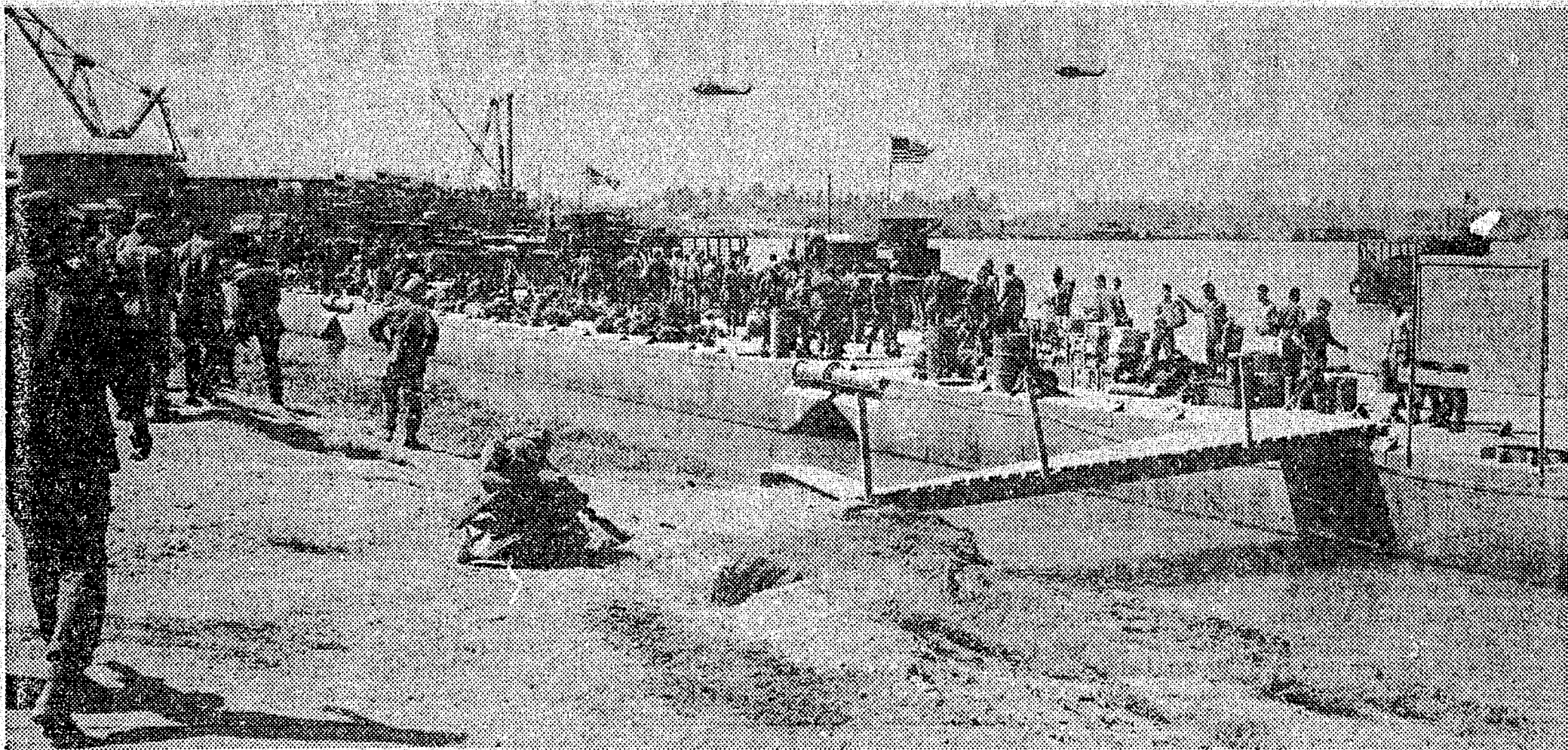
# Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

- KILLED IN ACTION**
- Army**
- PFC Walter E. Anderson Jr., Lexington, Ky.
  - PFC Alvin Carr, Hopkinsville, Ky.
  - CPL Gregory R. Shambaugh, Ann Arbor, Mich.
  - PFC Elvin L. Allen, Kansas City, Mo.
  - PFC Lee R. Stafford, Dudley, Mo.
  - SP4 Charles D. Ficed, Elyria, Ohio.
  - SP4 Floyd McFadden, Idabel, Okla.
  - SSG James E. Wyatt, Columbia, S.C.
  - SP4 Gary W. Watkins, Blooming Grove, Tex.
  - SP4 Russell C. Haas, South LaCrosse, Wis.
- Navy**
- HN David L. Wethington Jr., Savannah, Ga.
  - CEW2 John P. Hartlogg III, Savoy, Mass.
  - HMC Patrick D. Moriarty, Billings, Mont.
  - HN Joseph W. Baker, West Middlesex, Pa.
- Marine Corps**
- PFC Larry R. Gourdine, Goose Creek, S.C.
- MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE**
- Army**
- 2LT Leamuel A. White, Silverhill, Ala.
  - WO Richard S. Lowes, Johnston City, Ill.
  - SSG Louis V. Supina, Yorktown Heights, N.Y.
  - PFC Richard L. Sorenson, Eureka, Utah.
  - SP4 Kendall T. Farney, Stoughton, Wis.
- Navy**
- SN David A. Carll, Vallejo, Calif.
  - HM3 Anthony O. Slinger, Marietta, Ga.
  - BM3 Gary A. Larsen, Yankton, S.D.
  - ATN2 John F. Hartzheim, Appleton, Wis.

- MISSING IN ACTION**
- Army**
- 1LT Gary N. Shy.
  - SP4 Gerald K. Brown.
  - PFC David L. Corey.
  - PFC Donald W. Tisdale.
  - PFC Lewis B. Wilson.
- Navy**
- CDR Paul L. Millus.
  - LCDR Thomas E. Scheurich.
  - LT Richard C. Nelson.
  - RMSN Michael A. Evenson.
- Marine Corps**
- MAJ William H. Seward.
- MISSING TO CAPTURED OR INTERNED**
- Marine Corps**
- LCPL Edwin R. Grissett.
- DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION**
- Marine Corps**
- SGT Jerry O. Woods, Huntsville, Ala.
  - CPL Benny K. Sanchez, Wilmington, Calif.
  - LCPL Arthur L. Chisolem, Charleston, S.C.
  - CPL Gary L. Colombo, Walla Walla, Wash.
- MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE**
- Army**
- PFC William A. Jordan, Prescott, Ariz.
  - SSG Seventy J. Pollock, Philadelphia, Pa.
- CORRECTIONS**
- SFC Clifton Tankley, USA, Change status from killed in action to died not as a result of hostile action.
  - PFC Darrell W. Sibert, USA, Change status from killed in action to died not as a result of hostile action.
  - WO Stephen J. Cohan, USA, Change status from missing to dead—hostile to missing to dead—non hostile.
  - SP4 George W. Rushing, USA, Change status from missing to dead—hostile to missing to dead—non hostile.
  - 1LT Michael S. Lane, USA, Change status from missing to dead—hostile to missing to dead—non hostile.
  - WO Thomas J. Moore, USA, Change status from missing to dead—hostile

# 'Desert in Delta' Is Oasis for GI Operations



Troops of the 9th Inf. Div. unload from boats to a wharf at Dong Tam after an operation in the delta. The base, built by dredging silt from a river, is the southernmost American combat base in the delta. (S&S)

By SPEC. 5  
RUSS ANDERSON

S&S Staff Correspondent

**DONG TAM, Vietnam**—The men who live here call it their desert in the delta—a dozen acres of dirty hot-powder sand in the middle of the Mekong Delta marshland.

It is also in the middle of an area the Viet Cong have been prowling at will for years. And they don't like its presence.

This is Dong Tam, the largest and southernmost American combat base in the delta.

Dong Tam sits on six inches of silt dredged from an offshoot of the Mekong River that borders one side of the base. The silt has long been burned and bleached into a fine white powder that covers each square inch of real estate and property — indoors and outdoors.

Home base for the 9th Inf. Div.'s 2nd Brigade, Dong Tam is a new thorn in the Communist side.

And to show their pain and displeasure, the Viet Cong almost daily drop mortars or rockets into the base. Some 2,000, in fact, during the past month.

Dong Tam continues to grow. Base commander Lt. Col. Dwight L. Adams says he expects construction to continue through 1968. Mortar attacks, he said, have not slowed construction.

The mortars have become an accepted part of life at Dong Tam. Sand bunkers stand alongside each office building and barrack. Many of the men sleep in bunkers. The mortars are respected but not greatly feared.

It is from Dong Tam that 9th Div. river operations against the Viet Cong are carried out. Working with the Navy from ships along the Mekong River system, the American infantrymen are probing deeper and deeper into the delta.

## Airmen Aid Viet Children

**PHAN RANG, Vietnam (OI)**—During the past few weeks, about 1,500 youngsters in eight Montagnard and Vietnamese hamlets near Phan Rang AB have received toys and clothing from members of the 1882nd Comm. Sq. under a program called "Project Father."

Capt. Donald Terrell, 28, Richmond, Va., telecommunications officer of the squadron, said the toys and clothing are the gifts of people in the U.S. who were contacted by squadron personnel.

## Sleepless Nights in The Delta

S&S Vietnam Bureau

**DONG TAM, Vietnam** — What does a man do when he can't sleep at night?

At this Army base deep in the Mekong Delta, the problem is paramount. Several nights a week the men are awakened and rushed to bunkers to sit out a mortar attack.

"Most of us," says Pfc. Walter Ivey, "just sit there and talk about home. We're scared. Some of us pray. I saw a guy cry once, not because he was scared. He was just plain mad because he couldn't do anything about it."

Some of the men get card games going. Some even have a beer while they sit it out.

"I just sit there thinking about that soft bed I had to jump out of," says Spec. 4 Joe Bacile.

A group of civilian engineers even use their sleepless nights for practical jokes.

An old veteran who automatically jumps up and starts running when he hears the familiar "mortars!" was already asleep in his bunker when the attack started. A fellow worker shouted in his ear and he was up and out of the bunker in a second — right out where the mortar rounds were falling.

## Swimming Pool Opens After Many Splashes

**PHUOC VINH, Vietnam (IO)** — An Olympic-size canvas swimming pool with a tempestuous history was finally opened by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Div.'s 3rd Brigade here recently.

Maj. Robert Wheaton, base development officer, said the pool was almost opened several times during the past 13 months.

"Over a year ago when the 1st Inf. Div.'s 1st Brigade was here, they hired a private firm from out of country to construct the pool," he said.

His brother, Lt. Col. James K. Wheaton, was the 1st Brigade executive officer at the time.

"Jim mentioned that just after the pool was built last July, one

side was badly torn during a mortar attack," Wheaton said.

"The day before we were going to open the pool, another side was accidentally struck by a vehicle and all of the water escaped once again," Wheaton said. "It took us another three weeks to repair and refill it."

Opening day again approached and the 3rd Brigade paratroopers looked on hopefully. But the opening was again spoiled by another damaging attack.

Again the pool was drained, repaired and refilled.

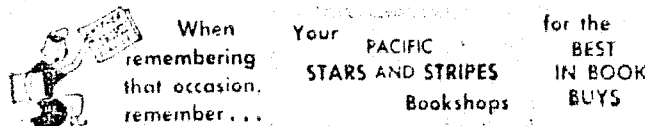
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# Report RFK Offered LBJ a Deal on Candidacy

(Continued From Page 1)  
Johnson of the meeting. Subsequently Secretary Clifford telephoned Senator Kennedy's office and spoke on the telephone to both Senator Kennedy and Mr. Sorensen.  
"The conversations were private; I am not at liberty to discuss them, and I have nothing further to add," Goulding said in a statement from the Pentagon Sunday night.  
Earlier Sunday, Kennedy had

termed the reports "an unfortunate distortion."  
Kennedy told newsmen: "From what I understand about the facts already put out, there has been a very unfortunate distortion. I am shocked that it should have occurred. It is incredible."  
Kennedy made his brief comments as he left his New York apartment on his way to La Guardia Airport where he was

scheduled to leave for Kansas City, Kan.  
The senator said a full statement would be issued later concerning the published report, which implied that if President Johnson would name and empower such a Vietnam policy commission the senator would withdraw from the presidential race.  
Another denial came from Kennedy aide Frederick Dutton, a former assistant secretary of

state. He described the reports as "absolutely untrue."  
Dutton said that Johnson had asked Kennedy to serve on a commission to study the war.  
Dutton said Kennedy turned it down because "What was he going to do? Let the primaries go by while a study commission studied the war and it goes on as before?"  
Kennedy's press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, gave this version of the affair:

Last Monday, at a meeting of Kennedy, Clifford and Kennedy adviser Theodore Sorensen, the idea arose of appointing a commission with the authority to recommend changes in Vietnam war policy.  
Kennedy said if the commission had the right people—but no names came up—and assurance that Johnson would go along with its recommendation, he would not challenge Johnson for the presidency.  
According to Mankiewicz, the President said he would think it over—and said no, late in the week with the stated reason that it would help Hanoi and smack of a political deal in wartime. The Kennedy aide said the original idea came up in a discussion between Johnson and Sorensen. He said the President asked Sorensen to discuss a commission with Kennedy and Clifford.

## Rifleman Slays 6 In Mich. Rampage

IRONWOOD, Mich. (AP) — Six persons were shot to death and three others critically wounded by a "frenzied man" who roamed this Upper Peninsula community with a high-powered rifle before being subdued by a patron of the local tavern.

The shootings occurred Saturday night within a two-hour span at two residences and the tavern in nearby Ironwood Township.

Eric Pearson, 55-year-old janitor at a local ski lodge, was arrested and charged with the slayings.

Gogebic County Sheriff Chester J. Prebish said Pearson had been drinking heavily and was incoherent when captured at the tavern, where one man was slain and one woman wounded.

The tavern was the last stop on the rampage. The slayer first visited a modern, one-story home about a mile from the tavern. There, four persons including a mother and her daughter were killed in the living room.

A 17-year-old girl, trying to hide in her bedroom closet, was wounded when a bullet was fired through a door. A trail of blood was left throughout the home.

The killer then went to another home, killing one man and wounding the man's wife. The next stop was the tavern.

"He just walked in the door and started shooting. He didn't say a word," said one customer.

He said another bar patron, John Niemi, picked up a beer bottle and hit Pearson on the head. Pearson crumpled to the floor and the sheriff's office was called.

Four of the victims died at the home of Mrs. Vienna L. Gustafson, 41. They included Mrs. Gustafson, her mother, Sally Johnson, 61; Mrs. Katherine Rigoni, 59, of Ironwood, and Daniel E. Weiss, 67, of Lansing.

Mrs. Gustafson's 12-year-old daughter, Robin, was critically wounded.

The gunman then went to the home of Raymond Hautala, where Hautala was slain and his wife, Lempi, 61, was wounded.

At the tavern, Rudolph Maurin, 56, of Ironwood, was slain and Mrs. Axel Pulsto, 47, of Ironwood, was wounded critically.



William McChesney Martin Jr., chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, announces agreement on a two-price system to block speculative buying of gold. (AP)

## RFK Doubts He'd Back LBJ Run

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Sunday expressed "grave reservations" about supporting President Johnson if he is renominated unless he changes what the New Yorker called his "catastrophic" policies.

Kennedy, who jumped into the Democratic race Saturday, predicted that without a switch in his policies, the President could not win re-election. But he denied his entry into the race would help Republicans beat Johnson, claiming the party already was torn asunder by differences over Vietnam.

"If we are going to follow the same policies we are following at the moment, if President Johnson wins the nomination, I would have grave reservations," Kennedy said in a television interview (Meet the Press—NBC).

"What has to be established in the delegates' minds and the people's mind is that the policies we are following at the moment we don't necessarily have to follow and if President Johnson continues those policies, which I think...are catastrophic, that he's going to lose the election.

"I'm loyal to the Democratic party, but I feel stronger about the United States and mankind generally," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he thought Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy's performance in the New Hampshire primary "showed there was a deep split within the Democratic Party and the country that had nothing to do with me."

He repeated that he did not declare his candidacy before New Hampshire for fear that people would interpret his campaign as a personal vendetta against President Johnson. He said he hoped to work with McCarthy and that he was "willing and anxious" to help McCarthy oppose the President's policies.

## 2-Price Gold System

(Continued From Page 1)  
year attempt to end attacks on the dollar and international currency by pegging the price speculators pay for gold in private markets to the same rates nations use in monetary exchange—\$35 a troy ounce.

The gold pool was formed in 1961 by the United States and seven other nations. France dropped out last year.

The pool partners pledged at that time to supply unlimited quantities of gold to private markets at the \$35 an ounce rate in an effort to end the speculation by making private gold purchases no more profitable than gold transactions between nations.

The statement also announced new support for the British pound sterling.

"In view of the importance of the pound sterling in the international monetary system the governors have agreed to provide further facilities which

will bring the total of credits immediately available to the U.K. authorities (including the IMF standby) to \$4 billion," the statement said.

The statement said the U.S. government will continue to buy and sell gold at the existing price of \$35 an ounce in transactions with monetary authorities.

Gold available at the \$35 price from the U.S., however, will be used only for official transactions between governments.

The statement was read to reporters in the State Department's international conference room by U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman William McChesney Martin, who had presided over the two-day conference.

Others participating were the central bank governors of Belgium, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

## Irish Up For St. Pat

DUBLIN (AP) — Dublin cheered its biggest and brightest St. Patrick's Day parade of the century Sunday.

Fifteen bands and a powerful American contingent helped honor the Emerald Isle's patron saint in a parade that took an hour to wind through city streets.

Tens of thousands filled the city center to watch the record entry of 120 floats and tableaux, interspersed with pretty colleens in horse-drawn coaches.

## Allies Slay 135 Enemy Near Saigon

(Continued From Page 1)  
Vietnamese soldiers in a trench and bunker complex began pouring fire into the onrushing Marines.

The Marines held up to let helicopter gunships, jets and artillery drive the Reds from their holes and into retreat.

Two Marines were killed and 25 wounded in the action.

Pacific Stars & Stripes correspondent Pat Luminello report-

ed that heavy fighting erupted Sunday 20 miles northwest of My Tho in the Delta on operation Truong Cong Dinh.

Luminello said the action began when a helicopter spotted two Communist bunker complexes about 40 miles southwest of Saigon.

A rifle platoon was lifted into the area to begin a sweep against the enemy positions while helicopter gunships fired rockets and machineguns into the bunker complexes. As the gunships began their attack, they began receiving heavy

small arms fire from a patchwork of canals about 200 yards square.

A company from the 9th Inf. Div. was helilifted into the area, while eight helicopter gunships attacked the Communist positions in an effort to suppress their fire.

As the company of infantrymen hit the ground they were pinned down under a hail of enemy automatic weapons and .50 cal. machine-gun fire.

When the copter gunships covering the infantrymen had to leave for rearmament, Maj.

Nathan Pullian, in the command and control copter, ordered his chopper down to engage the enemy with its two M60 machine guns until the gunships could return.

When the rocket-firing copters returned, they were met with heavy antiaircraft fire. One gunship was hit.

Other copters were brought in and picked up the infantry company and the rifle platoon pulled back so U.S. jets could pound the Communist positions.

Twenty-five Communists were confirmed killed in the battle.

## Weather

USAF Weather Central  
TOKYO AREA  
Monday: Night: Fair; Low 25  
Tuesday: Partly cloudy; High 50

TEMPERATURES  
March 17, 1968

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	91	78	Naha	64	52
Chitose	27	14	Saigon	90	71
Guam	82	75	Seoul	46	28
Honolulu	42	37	Taipei	71	57
Manila	92	72	Tokyo	52	39
	H	L		H	L
Albany	42	34	London	46	36
Anchorage	34	20	L.A.	69	56
Atlanta	63	48	Melbourne	93	63
Boston	41	35	Miami	72	65
Chicago	57	41	N. Orleans	65	53
Cincinnati	59	49	NYC	51	41
Cleveland	45	38	Paris	47	38
Denver	55	21	Phila.	47	38
Detroit	47	37	Frankfurt	73	55
Fort Worth	73	43	Singapore	82	75
Hong Kong	81	63	St. Louis	52	34
Honolulu	78	72	Salt Lake	58	42
Houston	70	41	San Fran.	59	55
Kansas City	62	38	Seattle	49	40
K. Lumpur	92	74	Sydney	83	69
			Wash.	52	40