

Aspaturian Views Asian Clash

By ROCHELLE MICHAELS

(This is the first of two articles on the border dispute currently raging between Red China and India)

The Communist Chinese claim to the border area between Red China and India is a "substantial one," but the border issue is only one reason for the recent outbreak of fighting, Vernon V. Aspaturian, associate professor of political science, said yesterday.

EXPLAINING his views on Red China's position, Aspaturian noted that the people of the disputed area are culturally more related to China than to India.

"They are Buddhists who are closely tied to the Tibetan Laman."

"Really this area is not a Chinese Communist claim, but a Chinese claim that has not been criticized by Nationalist China," he said.

However, in discussing the most current border fighting, Aspaturian put more blame on Red China than on India and gave several reasons why China would want to continue the fighting.

Although Indian Prime Minister Nehru last week ordered his army to clear the Red Chinese out of Indian territory, China easily had the military advantage and once she started to push India back,

she didn't stop, Aspaturian explained.

"China is interested in humiliating India to show Asia who is the foremost Asian power. But China also wants to force the Soviet Union to take sides in this dispute, which Khrushchev once hedgingly called a 'stupid' debate."

Specifically, Aspaturian said, China is looking for Russia to denounce India's action, thereby getting the Soviet support which has never been definitely granted on this issue.

Aspaturian also cited Red China's internal difficulties as another reason she might have for prolonging this border dispute.

"AN EXTERNAL WAR is a diverting force from internal problems in that it mobilizes patriotic support," he said. But I

wouldn't exaggerate this reason because India really provoked this particular phase of the fighting."

Red China could be trying to upset India's economy by forcing her to spend more on defense, Aspaturian said.

"This would create an internal problem similar to China's and could be used as proof that democracy does not always succeed."

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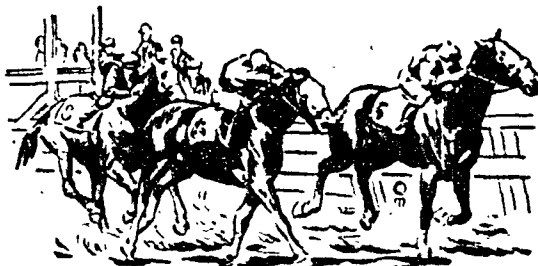


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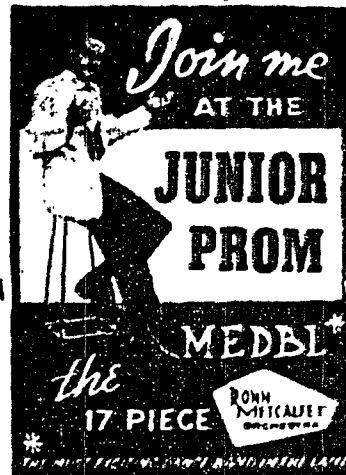
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