

AP News Capsule

U.S. Battle Deaths Near Year's High

Saigon — Furious fighting last week sent U.S. battle deaths to the second highest level of the year and more than double those of the previous week. South Vietnamese and enemy losses also were heavy.

The U.S. Command said 430 Americans were killed and 3,185 wounded last week, compared with 184 killed and 1,236 wounded the week before. It was the highest toll since the week ended March 1, when 453 U.S. troops were killed and 2,593 were wounded.

By the command's account, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong paid a heavy price in stepping up their attacks. It reported that 5,688 enemy troops were killed last week compared with 3,095 the previous week. This sent enemy battle deaths to 500,509 since the United States entered the war.

South Vietnamese headquarters reported 537 government troops were killed and 1,643 wounded last week, the highest total in more than a year. Two weeks ago 183 South Vietnamese soldiers were killed and 752 wounded.

United States Sees 'Productive' Talks

Paris — The United States said yesterday "a basis now exists for productive discussions of key issues" and the negotiators at the Paris peace talks opened debate on rival plans. But both sides acknowledged they were unable to make progress.

The 18th full-scale session of the talks lasted four hours and 50 minutes, but afterward, Xuan Thuy, North Vietnam's chief negotiator, said: "Today the conference made no progress at all."

U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge was asked by reporters whether he saw any willingness of the other side to negotiate and replied: "Well, it is rather obscure."

Inside the meeting hall, Tran Buu Kiem, the chief delegate of the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front, accused the United States of rejecting "the most essential and fundamental points" in the Front's 10-point plan.

Nixon Says No Nominations for Friends

Washington — President Nixon said yesterday he will never nominate a personal or political friend for the Supreme Court and will not consider race, religion or geography in making such selections.

Nixon met informally with newsmen in his oval office and, at what turned out to be a single-subject news conference, talked at length about the court and his nomination of Warren E. Burger to be chief justice. However, the President asked that he not be quoted directly and that publication of reports of the conference be withheld for several hours.

At this time, Nixon said, the Supreme Court needs an infusion of members whose nominations raise no questions about personal friendship or political considerations.

Chances Slim for Sirhan Execution

Sacramento, Calif. — The odds are that it will be a long while before Sirhan Bishara Sirhan goes to California's gas chamber—if he ever does. There's a chance the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy may never be executed.

Prison authorities declined to speculate yesterday on the prospect that Sirhan might escape death, to which he formally was sentenced Wednesday by a Los Angeles judge.

But an indication of his chances is reflected by figures on the fate of others sent to San Quentin Prison's crowded Death Row.

The State Department of Corrections said that of 93 death penalty cases on which there was action between Jan. 1, 1963, and March 31, 1969, the original death penalty held is only 34.

United States Training Vietnamese for Battle

Washington — Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird indicated yesterday the United States is giving increased priority to preparing the South Vietnamese for assuming more of the Vietnam fighting if the Paris peace talks should fail.

At the same time, Laird told a meeting of business and civic leaders that "while the enemy has been talking

peace, he has during recent weeks been stepping up his offensive military operations."

The tone of Laird's remarks seemed more pessimistic than those by U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge who said in Paris that "we think a basis now exists for productive discussion of the key issues" between the warring parties in the Vietnam war.

Living Cost Rise Swiftest in 18 Years

Washington — The swiftest rise in living costs in 18 years continued in April with another hefty hike of six-tenths of one per cent yesterday the government reported.

Price hikes for food, clothing, transportation, medical care and recreation pushed the Labor Department's consumer price index to 126.4.

This means it cost \$12.64 last month for the same typical family purchases that cost \$10 in the 1957-59 period on which the index is based.

The soaring price spiral, exceeded only in the Korean War and World War I eras, has eroded nearly a nickel in the past year from the already emaciated dollar of a decade ago.

The value of the dollar dropped from 83.4 cents a year ago to 79.1 cents last month in terms of 1957-59 purchasing power.

New Teacher Walkouts Hit Western Penna.

Pittsburgh — More than 30,000 children were out of school yesterday as a new wave of teacher walkouts hit Western Pennsylvania.

Teachers walked out of the Fox Chapel and Shaler Township school districts in suburban Pittsburgh and the Shade-Central school district in Somerset County.

Classes were also boycotted by teachers at the Freedom school district in Beaver County.

The first-day walkouts were prompted either by salary and fringe benefit demands or the refusal of school boards to negotiate.

Teacher strikes continued in New Castle in Lawrence County, the Elizabeth Forward system near McKeesport and the Ringgold district in Washington County.

But a five-day strike by 375 teachers in Connellsville Area schools in Fayette County ended when the school board agreed to a \$6,500 minimum starting salary and other fringe benefits. About 8,900 children had been kept away from classes, which were set to resume today.

Committee To Study Hospitals, Schools

Harrisburg — Rep. William H. Eckensberger Jr., D-Lehigh, was named chairman of a special House committee to investigate the physical condition and management of state mental hospitals and schools for the mentally retarded.

The investigation was prompted by a resolution calling conditions at many of the institutions "deplorable," even in new buildings because of what some lawmakers termed "glaring defects and deficiencies in construction."

Other Democrats appointed to the committee by House Speaker Herbert Fineman were Reps. Andrew J. McGraw, Allegheny, chief sponsor of the resolution; Paul F. Luty and Gerald Kaufman, also of Allegheny, and Harry R. J. Comer and James D. Barber, both of Philadelphia.

House Minority Leader Lee A. Donaldson named the following Republican members: Reps. Sherman L. Hill, Lancaster; H. Sheldon Parker, Allegheny; William H. Claypoole, Armstrong, and Patricia A. Crawford, Chester.

Behrend Registers 24 Blacks; Site of 'Project Reach Out'

By **MIKE WOLK**
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend Campus in Erie, one of the University's 19 Commonwealth Campuses, has registered 24 black students from the Erie area for Fall Term.

The increased enrollment of blacks at Behrend was discussed here Saturday as part of an annual organizational conference held by the Organization of Student Government Associations. OSGA is one of three chartered student organizations recognized as spokesmen for the student body. The organization is made up of the Student Government Associations at the Commonwealth Campuses.

During Winter Term, questionnaires were sent to the 13,000 students attending Commonwealth Campuses. The questionnaires were sent directly to students in an effort to increase direct student involvement in their own government," according to Ron Batchelor, OSGA president.

One result of the "direct communication" was the choosing by OSGA of the Behrend Campus as the pilot site for its black recruitment program, "Project Reach Out."

As part of the program, black students and OSGA members visited the black community in Erie and spoke at both black and white schools and at black community centers. The students "strengthened" interest in college attendance in general, and specifically in Penn State," according to Batchelor.

"As a result, the University has enrolled 24 black students from the Erie area for Fall Term," he continued. "That's quite different from the situation of this past year—when there were six blacks at Behrend—all from Philadelphia."

Motivation Program
At the OSGA conference, executives also passed "The OSGA Joint Motivation Project," designed "to aid and educate the youth of underdeveloped neighborhoods."

Through the program, Penn State students will tutor students in ghetto areas near

selected Commonwealth Campuses. The University will reward tutors with three credits in whatever subject they teach.

The motivation program is a joint effort with the Undergraduate Student Government. Batchelor pointed out that this is the first time that both organizations have worked together toward a "specific, common goal."

He urged members of both organizations to work as a single unit, to achieve the basic function of the tutoring program, that of "educating the youth of Pennsylvania."

Housing Orientation
Another OSGA program, this one dealing with housing orientation for branch campus students, was discussed and ultimately dismissed at the conference.

The program was initiated at the same time as "Project Reach Out," and also was student-directed with questionnaires. The basic question was the possible need for a special orientation program for students transferring to University Park from Commonwealth Campuses.

"Many students have trouble adapting to University Park after a year or two at a Commonwealth Campus," Batchelor said.

"We thought that this might be the answer, but student response in the questionnaire indicates that there is no desire for special orientation. Most students don't even want to live in the residence halls; they want to move directly into apartments," he added.

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Berkeley Demonstrators Held

Protesters Arrested

Berkeley, Calif. (AP) — Riot-ready National Guardsmen surrounded and arrested some 200 "people's park" demonstrators yesterday in downtown Berkeley. No one was injured.

The prisoners were booked on "field arrest" cards and herded into Alameda County sheriff's vans which ferried them to Santa Rita Prison, the county lockup.

The arrests were made after guardsmen warned the demonstrators that they were violating Gov. Ronald Reagan's emergency order banning marches and assemblies in Berkeley.

Trapped By Troops
About 300 troops trapped them in an alley as they were marching around, reportedly

looking for another "people's park" site.

Earlier yesterday, University of California President Charles Hitch said the responsibility for tactics in the week-long "people's park" lay with the sheriff.

"I deeply regret that those in authority decided that certain tactics were necessary to protect persons and property," the president of the statewide nine-campus system said in a statement.

Home Besieged
Hitch made a pointed effort to take the heat off Roger Heyns, chancellor of the Berkeley campus, whose home was besieged for several hours yesterday by chanting, singing demonstrators.

Heyns on May 15 called police who forcibly recovered a university-owned lot outside the campus, which hippies and others had appropriated as a "people's park."

Rector Death
In the battle that followed, James Rector of San Jose, a convicted burglar and narcotics user, was fatally shot and 127 other persons, including 60 peace officers, were injured or wounded.

Arrests so far have totaled more than 450.

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