



## ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

With our POWs coming home and our troop strength in Southeast Asia being drastically reduced daily, our thoughts regarding Vietnam have turned to post-war problems. Two such problems

### LEARN MORE ABOUT PRACTICAL HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING

A good garden contributes to the well-being of the family by supplying foods that might not otherwise be provided. Besides providing wholesome food, vegetable gardening is an interesting hobby in which the whole family can participate in the planning, planting, cultivating and harvesting. Gardening also provides healthful exercise, offers productive activity for handicapped or disabled persons and is an excellent way to teach children about growth and reproduction.

All forms of gardening — vegetable, flowers, fruit, landscaping—are fascinating pursuits which will be valuable to a young person all his life. Many homes have available space for a garden and more parents may want to encourage their children's interest in some phase of gardening.

Successful gardens do not just happen. A practical guide for growing vegetables in the home garden is available from the Pennsylvania State University's correspondence course office. Titled, "Home Vegetable Gardening," the course includes ideal planting dates for various vegetables, spaces between rows of seed needed for so many feet of row, kinds of fertilizers and rates to use, and how to control insects & diseases.

### NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS REACHING EPIDEMIC LEVEL

The incidence of nervous breakdowns has reached epidemic proportions in the U.S., declares an article in the current issue of Coronet Magazine. The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that every year approximately four to eight million Americans are in need of care for "depressive illnesses," meaning breakdowns.

Dr. Leonard Cammer, founder of New York's Gracie Square hospital, defines a breakdown as an emotional problem that has gotten out of control to the point that it seriously interferes with a person's ability to maintain his normal way of life.

"When a person's energy is depleted and he can no longer adjust to rising situations, he becomes depressed and breaks down," says Dr. Cammer. "It is like a car battery suddenly running out. The car no longer works."

A sudden family crisis or personal tragedy can be that last straw that triggers a breakdown, but disastrous upheavals in life do not cause them, the article says. In many cases the sufferer has just achieved something extremely important to him or her. Senator Thomas Eagleton suffered a breakdown after winning an election and Astronaut Buzz Aldrin had a nervous breakdown a month after his historic flight to the moon.

"A breakdown can be a positive thing," concludes Coronet. "Finally, you face the problems that existed for a long time and you can clear them away."

### CHURCHILL SPEAKS

On Dec. 26, 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint session of Congress.

seem most prominent — the question of amnesty and the question of rebuilding both Vietnams.

There are strong feelings on both sides of the amnesty question. In general, I have taken the attitude that some form of conditional amnesty should be provided for those who fled the country to avoid the draft. On the other hand, military deserters should be forced to face the court action against them. By conditional amnesty I mean some form of alternative service that takes note of the fact that the draft dodger broke the law and should be required to do something meaningful on be-

half of his country in order to return to his country.

Many Americans have grave reservations about sending our dollars to either of the Vietnams to help them rebuild. I admit to some real questions about such a program, too. We are all too familiar with the situation in Vietnam where graft is a way of life, and there are no guarantees that the money we send would end up doing much good.

However, it does occur to me that these two serious post-war questions — amnesty and rebuilding — might have a common solution. The solution that comes to mind is something I'll call, for want of a better title, the Vietnam Reconstruction Corps.

The VRC would be a group of Americans whose talents & muscle would be used to help rebuild Vietnam. Basically it would be an organization with the prime goal of helping the Vietnamese to help themselves — not unlike the Peace Corps

concept.

The difference would be that most of the manpower for the VRC would come from those who evaded the draft during the Vietnam conflict.

Amnesty for the draft dodger would be conditioned on a two-year period of acceptable service in Vietnam as a part of the VRC. That two-year hitch would be equal to twice the time of service that was required of a draftee who was sent to Vietnam as a part of the military.

The VRC recruit would be paid at the same base rate that a military enlisted man made for Vietnam duty—less, of course combat pay. Thus the cost of the operation would be considerably less than the billions of dollars being talked about for reconstruction aid.

In addition to using draft evaders to staff the VRC, it should also be open to any person who wants to volunteer for such duty. There are

many persons in this country who expressed concern about the ravages of war in Vietnam and service in the VRC would give them an opportunity to put their actions where their concerns lie.

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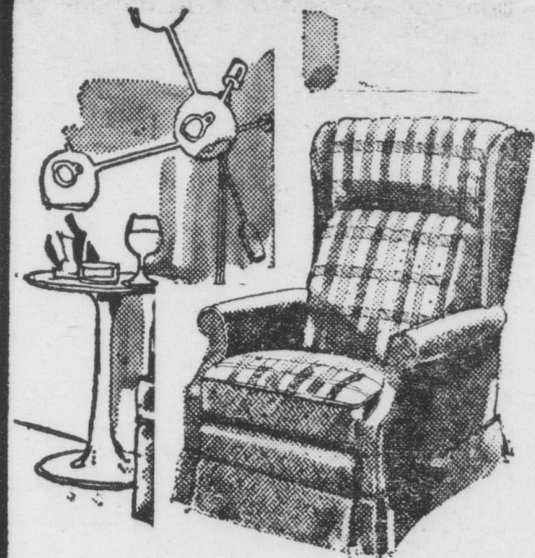
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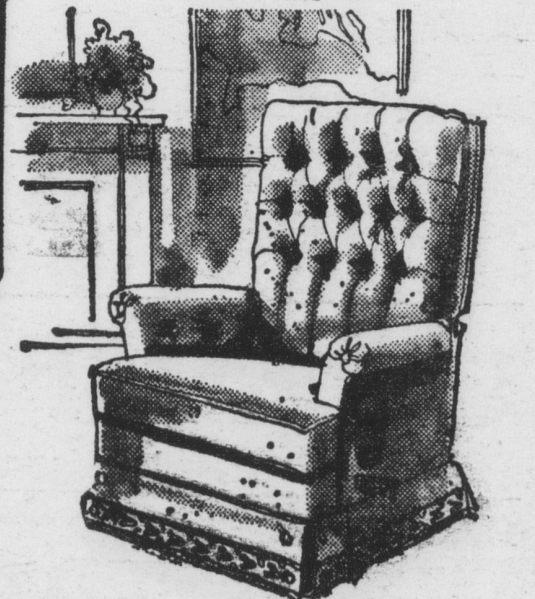
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