

4-9-68
NYRS

Press Digest

TIMES quotes from sermon once delivered by Martin Luther King Jr.: "If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral . . . I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others . . . And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity . . . Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major. Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness . . . And all of the other shallow things will not matter . . . I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind."

* * *

NEWS: "In this excited period following Thursday evening's assassination in Memphis, all manner of proposals are being heard . . . Some of the plans are bound to be good, but not all of them . . . Mayor John V. Lindsay, for example, did much here to ward off such rioting as has disgraced Washington and Chicago, by performing a series of his famed walking tours . . . That's fine . . . The Mayor also, however, wants to spend a barrel of money on projects which it is hoped but not known will appease Negro-discontent. Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller is of the same mind

. . . Before our lawmakers in Washington, Albany and New York City endorse various executive officials' plans to bury Dr. King beneath a pyramid of gold, they should inquire into the level-headedness or otherwise of all such plans."

* * *

TOM WICKER (Times): "President Johnson's best course—particularly now that he is no longer running for office—is to concentrate his considerable energies and talents on settling the war. That is the key to his financial problem; and it is a necessary step toward a major attack on the racial situation. It is necessary because, no matter how rich the nation may be, Congress will not tax it heavily enough to finance both a war and a social revolution without a deterioration of the dollar. Therefore, the President might as well save the words he is being asked to say to Congress."

* * *

TED LEWIS (News): "In these uncertain hours in the nation's capital when civil stability is hopefully being restored, it has become clear that President Johnson alone can supply the guidance and uplift desperately sought by millions of shocked citizens . . . The question that is most pertinent is whether the President can at last find himself capable of true and strong national leadership."