

10/26/66

Dear Mr. Hill,

Please forgive the hasty answer to your last two letters, today's postmarked the 20th.

I do not have that Sunday Times and it is now too late to get it from the paper wholesalers. However, I have seen it. It is a supplement, like a magazine addition to the paper.

If you want it for fact, it will tell you nothing. If it has value to you as an expression of the opinion of the paper, that is different.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

THE PERISCOPE

WASHINGTON WIRE

What Next for the Draft

That special White House study on the draft is still in the works, but some Washington insiders have an idea of what it will say. The study group, headed by Burke Marshall—an old Justice Department hand under Robert Kennedy and now chief counsel for IBM—is expected to propose a plan that will allow some draft-age young men to serve time in such nonmilitary outfits as the Peace Corps and VISTA. The Marshall plan, however, will not urge that some kind of service be compulsory for all.

Give-'em-Hell Lyndon

The sudden transformation in recent weeks of LBJ's public image from a "consensus President" to a Truman-style "give-'em-hell" partisan came about, it seems, on the advice of some of his top White House aides. Instead of straining to be all things to all voters, they told the President, the proper tack was simply "Be yourself."

A New Look at the Assassination?

Will the Kennedy assassination case be reopened? Critics of the Warren commission report have been pressuring Washington to take another look at the evidence. (Just last week, The Sunday Times of London joined the clamor with a ten-page article about what it called the commission's "vulnerable document.") But an impressive array is against any further probe: the Kennedy family, President Johnson and Chief Justice Earl Warren privately oppose a new investigation as pointless. One major private foundation, however, has indicated it might back a thorough two- or three-year study of the case if a lawyer "with the right qualifications" came forward with such a proposal.

DIPLOMATIC POUCH

Moscow, the Moon and Mars

Soviet space scientist Leonid I. Sedov admitted during last week's International Astronautical Congress in Madrid that Russia—which hasn't put a cosmonaut into orbit since March 1965—has had problems with its manned-flight program. Amid rumors of an imminent new space spectacular, here is what U.S. experts say may be going on at Baikonur: Russia is working on a new spacecraft which might carry five or more cosmonauts. The next Soviet manned shot could come between now and late November. If not, winter weather will force a wait until spring.

Meanwhile, there may be a series of non-manned missions to Mars in December when the planet next will be in favorable position. The most likely Mars shots: a "flyby" photo mission and an atmospheric probe. And the U.S. would not be surprised if the Russians crash-landed a capsule on Mars capable of sending back data.

Peace Corps East

The East German Reds are launching an all-out effort to win friends in Black Africa and in Asia. Several hundred young German Reds are being trained for a "Friendship Brigade," modeled on the U.S. Peace Corps. Two thousand Africans have been invited to study in East Germany, and East Berlin's Trade Union Institute has already trained 750 Africans with 200 more to come. Main Communist target areas in Africa: Guinea, Zanzibar and Congo Brazzaville. As for Asia, a new Buddhist Research Center has been set up in East Germany, and Buddhist scholars have been invited from all over Asia (except, of course, Red China).

INSIDE STORY

Calling in the Old Guard

LBJ has asked Jack Valenti, his former man-of-all-work and now president of the Motion Picture Association, to join him at the Manila conference. Valenti, now in Europe on a world tour as movie czar, says he hopes that his schedule will allow him to make the meeting.

A Budget Surprise From LBJ

President Johnson may have a surprise up his sleeve on his new defense budget (now running at an annual rate of \$61.5 billion). Congress expects him to ask for supplemental sums for the Vietnam war of \$12 billion to \$15 billion early next year. But budget experts in the Pentagon now say LBJ may well be able to hold that request to \$6 billion because there is a good chance that defense spending for procurement purposes (for planes, guns, fuel, ammunition, etc.) will level off in 1967.

Bright Side of Rights

The men who write the news that the U.S. Information Agency distributes to the world have been told to accentuate the positive in civil-rights stories. A new directive deplores the fact that the "negative" news (riots, for instance) gets the big play. USIA wants the emphasis put on the "constructive" side of the Negro revolution, including stories on Congressional action on civil rights. This continues the

10-20-66
My dear Mr. Weisberg:
I have urgent immediate
need for a copy of the Sun-
day Times article about
medicated which covered
(and)

he had here for three
weeks or longer. If
without appreciable
trouble you can have
a copy sent with a bill
for same please do so.
If you cannot do so
please advise me and
I will procure same
from London.

Thanks.

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