



# The Innocent Huddle Among The Explosions

**GIA KIEN, Vietnam** — She was 20 pounds of frightened little girl bundled up in a dirty white dress. She whimpered and tears streamed down her face. Crouched amidst the Vietnamese rangers awaiting to go into action, her red-rimmed eyes wide with fear, her clothes soiled, she was a heart-rending example of how the innocent are swept into war. Yet in the cruel vocabulary of the Vietnam war, this little girl was lucky. Half a dozen like her were not. She was first noticed during a lull in the relentless helicopter rocketing Thursday of this hamlet at the edge of Bien Hoa City. It was hard to believe that anything was left alive in Gia Kien at this point, much less a tiny girl. Rockets from scores of U. S. helicopters had been slamming through 100 new

refugee housing units, finished just one week earlier by people made homeless by the Tet offensive a year ago. By midafternoon the estimated 100 North Vietnamese troops who had sneaked into the hamlet before dawn had been whittled to a handful. Many were killed in the holocaust. Others staggered out during the rocketing, bleeding from the mouth and nose, stumbling forward with their weapons held high in surrender. The Vietnamese corps commander had ordered in napalm strikes to obliterate the remaining opposition. Then the little girl appeared. She was trying to get away from the inferno of the houses behind her. She tried to crawl over a barbed wire fence and the spikes snagged her dress. She seemed to be flailing in the air. None of the Vietnamese rangers moved. That was a no man's land down there. The girl could be a decoy set up by desperate enemy soldiers. A big man pushed past an armored troop carrier. He began running toward the burning hamlet 150 yards away. "Hey Harry," he called back to Sgt. Maj. Harry Sanders. "Cover me, I'm going to get her." Then Maj. Robin Luketina, a 33-year-old veteran of four Vietnam tours, gathered up speed despite his steel helmet and heavy flak vest. He reached the barbed wire, plucked the girl into his arms, and stumbled back up the road. Sanders had seen another girl slip out of a bombed house. He grasped her in his arms and sped to safety. The napalm came in soon after. About 20 canisters splashed across the scarred face of Gia Kien from U. S. Air Force planes and Vietnamese bombers. Before this, the soldiers had wheeled a loud-speaker truck within 100 yards of the village to appeal for any civilians left inside to come out. But time was running short. The North Vietnamese had to be killed before darkness permitted them to slip away. Some civilians didn't make it.

## Bills Offer Up-to-Date Constitution

Adoption of an updated version of the North Carolina Constitution was proposed Thursday in legislation introduced in the General Assembly. Drafted by a special Statewide commission, the revised Constitution will be presented to the voters if approved by the Assembly. Identical 61-page bills embodying a recommendation made in December by the State Constitution Study Commission were filed in the House and Senate. They were introduced by the chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Rep. Ike Andrews (D-Chatham) and Sen. Julian Allsbrook (D-Halifax). The proposed new Constitution is primarily an editorial undertaking to remove archaic language and provisions, although it does contain what the study commission described as "some modest amendments."

## 2 Wallace Men Abandon GOP

**GREENVILLE** — Two members of the State executive committee of the North Carolina Republican party announced Thursday a formal switch in registration to the American party. The men, Steve Conger of Weldon and Dr. R. Thornton Hood Jr. of Kinston, had supported American party presidential candidate George Wallace last fall without quitting the Republican party. Walter Green of Burlington, State American party interim chairman, said at a ceremony at which the switches were announced that they were "another step forward" for the party in North Carolina.

## Governors in Poll Cheer Tobacco Tax

**WASHINGTON** — Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York thinks a tobacco tax for North Carolina "is just great." And Gov. Robert McNair of South Carolina believes tobacco taxes are "one of the best ways to raise revenue." They don't affect too many people and have no impact on tobacco growers at all. These were typical answers of governors when asked their attitudes about Scott's proposal for North Carolina to join the other 49 states and impose taxes on smokers. Governor Scott himself, moving among colleagues here at his first national governors conference meeting, was urging them to reduce cigarette taxes. But the suggestion was getting few takers. Nearly all the governors were groaning that they needed more money, not less. In that regard, Scott was among sympathetic peers. Governor McNair said he thought Scott had "done the right thing if he needs the money." McNair said he had proposed

**Garbage Protection** — Guardians of Rome's ancient Colosseum want iron gates built around the structure to protect the area from night-time garbage dumpers.

**VEGETABLES IN OUR HISTORY** (Sweet-Sour Beets Vegetable Butter Sauce)—Add new flavor and interest to the vegetables you serve. Try this Vegetable Butter Sauce or the Sweet-Sour Beets, both made

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# Communist Envoys Launch Personal Attack on Nixon

**PARIS** — Communist negotiators unleashed an unprecedented personal attack on President Richard M. Nixon Thursday on the eve of his arrival in Paris. They denounced his administration as "more perfidious" than that of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. Viet Cong and Hanoi delegates made the attack after U.S. chief negotiator Henry Cabot Lodge denounced the new Communist offensive in Vietnam and said it cast serious doubts on the Communists' professed good faith at the Vietnam conference table.

his policy behind kind words of peace, but that "the inauguration statement and press conferences of Mr. Nixon have clearly shown the dark and vile designs of his government." Lodge opened his statement stating "today's meeting is overshadowed by the tragedy created by the indiscriminate attacks against population centers which have occurred in South Vietnam. "Helpless civilians—including women and children—have been killed and maimed," Lodge said. "These people have done no wrong. Yet they are the victims of your wanton violence," he

said. Lodge said the Communist offensive "complicates our task." "The consequences of these attacks are your responsibility," he said, "they clearly raise a question as to your side's true desire to work towards a peaceful settlement of this conflict." Lodge did not specify what these consequences might be. The veteran American diplomat, who will hold intensive consultations with Nixon Sunday, renewed U.S. proposals for an agreement on the restoration of the Demilitarized Zone, the mutual withdrawal of foreign troops and prisoner exchanges.

Dropping all diplomatic niceties, the Communist delegates let loose against Nixon for the first time since he was elected last November. The bitter exchange took place at Thursday's sixth session of the Vietnam peace conference and left a cloud of gloom over Nixon's impending visit. The Communist tone was set by Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's chief bargainer. He charged the Nixon administration with being "more stubborn and perfidious than the one" of Johnson. "Tran Buu Kiem, the Viet Cong National Liberation Front (NLF) shadow "foreign minister," said "the Nixon government has not only followed the road chartered by the Johnson administration, but it has intensified the war of aggression against the South Vietnamese population, obstinately pursued a neo-colonialist policy, "and is harboring the illusion of winning a position of strength on the battlefield and at the conference table." Kiem, a former guerrilla fighter, said Nixon has hidden

**Helpful Tax Booklet Now Available**

Greensboro—"Your Federal Income Tax," a 160-page booklet on Federal taxes, written in layman's language, is now available at most Internal Revenue Service offices throughout North Carolina, according to J. E. Wall, District Director of Internal Revenue. The booklet, also known as Publication 17, covers in detail the Federal income tax laws as they apply to individuals. It contains many examples to illustrate how the laws apply to actual situations. Wall said the material is especially helpful to taxpayers who have unusual tax situations, or for those faced with a new tax problem. Examples of taxable and non-taxable income and of allowable and nonallowable deductions are included. A detailed index helps pinpoint answers to tax problems. A special feature in the booklet is the sample, filled-in tax return, Form 1040, keyed to pages in the booklet where explanations can be found for the entries on the return. The booklet may also be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, at 60 cents a copy.

Rockefeller said. "We have been working hard to find money in New York for our services, and we have been losing revenue because of cigarette bootlegging." Rockefeller was referring to the traffic between North Carolina and his state in low-cost Tar Heel cigarettes smuggled past New York state and local taxes. **Six Tar Heels Die in Vietnam** **WASHINGTON** — The Pentagon issued a casualty list Thursday identifying several North Carolina servicemen who have died in Vietnam. Listed as killed in action were: Army Spec. 4 Steven J. Pasula, son of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Pasula of 110 Franklin St., Belmont; Pfc. George L. Davis Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Davis, 3700 Avalon Ave., Charlotte; and Pfc. Gary E. Johnson, 2nd St., Gastonia. Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Belfield, son of Mrs. Elenor M. G. Belfield, 1000 Maple St., Weldon, was listed as having died of wounds. Changed from missing to dead of hostile action was Army Pfc. Hugh R. McKinney, nephew of Effie K. Williams, 445 Horse-shoe Road, Fayetteville. Maj. Wayne A. Wharton, husband of Suzanne W. Wharton, 739 Wriston Place, Charlotte, was listed as having died of hostile action.



**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**—Four outstanding members of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church receive awards for their devotion, dedication and service to the church from Dr. A. D. Moseley, pastor (far right) during ceremonies held recently. The awards ceremony, an annual affair, is a result of the votes by the entire church membership where an adult man and woman and a junior boy and girl are selected to receive certificates. The 1968 awardees are: (left to right) William E. Lucas, Jr., Superintendent, Sunday School; Glenn Pettiford, Asst. Director Baptist Training Union and candidate for theological training; Mrs.

Nellie Samuel, church musician and Director of Young Adult Missionaries and Miss Tinnie Arnold an active member of the Youth church.

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**Veasey Named Cary Mayor**

Joseph R. Veasey, cashier at the Cary branch of the Bank of Fuquay, was elected Cary mayor by his fellow town council members Thursday night. Veasey will fill the unexpired term of Mayor E. B. Davis, who had to resign that post as well as his seat on the council when he moved outside the town limits. The term as mayor ends with town elections May 6. Councilmen elect the mayor from among themselves.

**Science in the News**

*Should You Limit Low-Calorie Drinks?*

Those artificially-sweetened soft drinks continue to gladden the hearts of calorie-dodging dieters. Today one bottle out of ten of soda pop is a "diet drink." But some nagging questions about the most widely used synthetic sweeteners are still bothering public health specialists and keeping their laboratories busy. What the scientists are trying to find out is not only "What's the limit?" but also "How safe are they?" Almost all low-calorie soft drinks and diet foods are sweetened with cyclamate, an artificial sweetener in use since the early 1950's. A study by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, released in December, warned that the totally unrestricted use of these chemicals was not a good idea. The report asked for more research. It also said that cyclamate intake of five grams a day (less than one-fifth of an ounce), should present no hazard to adults. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is not sure that five grams of cyclamate a day is a prudent dose.

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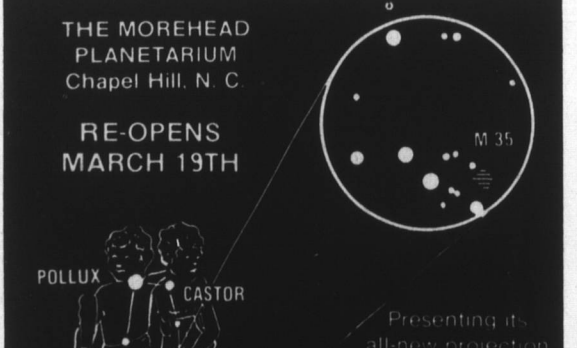
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