

# U.S. Uses A-Blast For Major Industrial Test

**NEW MEXICO**--The United States conducted Sunday its first underground nuclear test for purely industrial purposes.

The blast, equalling 20,000 tons of TNT, was set off deep beneath the ground in New Mexico in an effort to free natural gas believed trapped in rock formations.

The energy from the thermo-nuclear explosion was expected to vaporize and fracture the rock formations, forming a large underground gas reservoir. If successful, the technique could be used to recover oil, copper and other minerals in the U.S. and abroad.

The test marked the first joint experiment undertaken by government and industry to use nuclear technology for economic development. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of the Interior and the El Paso Natural Gas Co. sponsored the \$4.7 million project.

**WASHINGTON**--The Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional a section of federal law that bars members of Communist groups from working in defense plants. Chief Justice Earl Warren said that the provision of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 "is an unconstitutional abridgment of the right of association protected by the First Amendment." A further statement in 6-2 decision: "The statute quite literally established

guilt by association alone, without any need to establish that an individual's association poses the threat feared by the government in proscribing it. The inhibiting effect on the exercise of First Amendment rights is clear." Justices Byron R. White and John M. Harlan dissented.

**WASHINGTON**--The Senate Monday rejected a move to give states full control over a federally funded program to foster innovative educational approaches.

**GLENDALE, CALIF.**--Pop singer Jimmie Rodgers, 33, is still in critical condition in a hospital here. He underwent major surgery for the second time in a week, with surgeons removing a section of his skull to relieve pressure caused by a brain hemorrhage.

Rodgers, whose record of "Honeycomb" sold more than 2 million copies, was mysteriously attacked on a Los Angeles freeway two weeks ago.

**WASHINGTON**--The new social security bill, now cleared through a House-Senate conference committee, has come under attack by IAW President Walter P. Reuther. He described the proposed law as a "punish the poor" bill, adding that Congress has turned its back on the aged, sick and needy.

Reuther charged that the bill does not go far enough in raising minimum benefits from \$44 to \$55. "In terms of real income... what our senior citizens can buy with their social security dollars--this represents a percentage increase of approximately four per cent as compared to the purchasing power of social security benefits under legislation of 1954," he said.

Reuther also criticized the conferees' decision to raise the social security tax base to only \$7,800.

The auto union chief also blasted provisions in the bill which affected the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program. These included the requirement that mothers of ADC children must be separated from their children, without choice, to participate in work-training programs and that federal ADC funds would be frozen for children over and above those already on the rolls as of January 1, 1968.

**PHILADELPHIA**--A flash fire swept through a University of Pennsylvania fraternity

**WASHINGTON**--According to a report released over the weekend by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Ku Klux Klan activity in Michigan has increased significantly over the past two years.

The committee said that the number of KKK klaverns in Michigan has increased from one to three since Congressional hearings on KKK activities during the winter of 1965-66.

The three Michigan klaverns are located in Detroit, Taylor Township and Flint. As of last March, they had a total membership of about 200, the committee reported in a 371-page booklet on "The Present Day KKK Movement."

The committee added that the resurgence of the KKK in Michigan is greater than in almost any other northern state.

**WASHINGTON**--Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.), a dissenting Democrat running against President Johnson in the 1968 presidential primaries, has outlined a plan to cut back U.S. military presence in Vietnam.

Speaking over the weekend on the CBS "Face The Nation" program, McCarthy said he would favor an immediate cut back of 350,000 out of 500,000 American troops in Vietnam.

The Minnesota Senator said that the 150,000 American troops remaining in Vietnam could be maintained indefinitely while negotiations proceeded with North Vietnam to neutralize the entire country, McCarthy suggested Warsaw, Poland, as a good place to carry out such negotiations.

**WASHINGTON**--Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Se-

lective Service Director Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey have announced formation of a new division within the Justice Department to prosecute Selective Service law violators.

Hershey and Clark said the new division was not a threat against those who "loyally exercise rights of free speech and peaceful assembly," but that it would clamp down on draft law violators.

This is the second phase of a drive to control increasing draft law violations. Last month, Hershey told local draft

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