

Mid-Course Defense Advocated

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon's blueprint for building a generation of peace through stiffened free world alliance and "vigorous negotiation from a position of strength" was mapped for Congress Tuesday.

A "Strategy of Realistic Deterrence," Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird called it.

He said the strategy's essential foundation is maintenance of a strong free world military capability to steer America on "a prudent middle course between two policy extremes— world policeman or new isolationism."

The strategy is aimed at expanding present U.S. nuclear deterrence to deterrence of theater war in Europe or Asia and local wars such as Indochina, as well by marshalling free world military power, Laird said.

"By maintaining this type of deterency in all three categories," he told newsmen after the closed House Armed Services Committee hearing, "we can truly move toward the generation of peace outlined in President Nixon's foreign policy report."

Laird mapped the strategy in his annual defense posture statement on the \$76 billion defense budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1971. He gave no new details on U.S. disengagement from the Indochina conflict. And he announced no major new weapons systems.

He did propose limited expansion of the Safeguard antimissile system to "enhance the chances" for a U.S.-Soviet arms-control agreement, while maintaining a U.S. option for going to a full 12-site Safeguard system if the arms talks are not successful.

Laird also: —Disclosed Red China may have test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile several thousand miles late last year, which could make it a nuclear threat in 1973 although that threat still is not expected before 1974 or 1975.

—Said "there is evidence of a large new Soviet ICBM" but said the Pentagon does not know if it is a new missile or a modification of the Soviets' giant SS9.

—Said the administration's peacetime military forces goal is 2.5 million men and women, one million below Vietnam peaks, that will cost only 7 per cent of the Gross National Product, which he called a measure of the nation's priorities.

—Disclosed a new ship cost overrun—\$164 million for the nuclear aircraft carriers Nimitz and Eisenhower now expected to cost \$594 million and \$616 million respectively. He said the Navy will be prepared to explain this at later hearings.



Sues to Return to School

Fay Ordway, 18, of East Pepperell, Mass., a high school senior suspended because she is pregnant, has filed suit in U.S. District Court in Boston for a court order to compel school authorities to let her continue classes. She charged the suspension an unconstitutional deprivation of her opportunity to get an education. (AP Wirephoto)

NY Nickel Ferry Faces Cigar's Fate

NEW YORK (UPI) — The five-cent Staten Island ferry fare, the city's sacrosanct "bargain," will go the way of the five cent cigar and the nickel cup of coffee if Mayor John V. Lindsay has his way.

Lindsay, whose administration is more than \$300 million in the red, proposed Tuesday a \$880.7 million tax package that would increase cost of a ride between Manhattan and Staten Island to 25 cents. Ferry fares for autos would be hiked from 90 cents to \$1.50.

The ferry, founded more than a century ago by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, has had a five-cent fare since 1898, when the city took over its operation, and no previous administration has been successful in increasing it. Lindsay said the new fares would produce \$4 million in additional revenue annually.

The biggest feature of the Lindsay proposal, most of which must be approved by the State Legislature, would be a payroll income tax applying equally to city residents and commuters and bringing the city an added \$500 million annually. The mayor also proposed that commuters who shop in New York pay full New York sales tax instead of only the tax of their home states.

The proposal would extend sales tax to personal services such as haircuts and dry cleaning and the unincorporated business tax to self-employed professionals such as doctors and architects. Lindsay wants to put a 6 per cent tax on advertising, to be paid by the advertisers, and a 20-cent a fifth tax on alcoholic beverages.

If the package is approved in its entirety, the city will be able to maintain services at present levels without any expansion, Lindsay said. If not there will be reduction of police, fire and public school services, he warned.

Pianist Cancels Tour of Russia

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York manager for German pianist Christoph Eschenbach, 29, said Tuesday Eschenbach had canceled his April tour in the Soviet Union.

Eschenbach said he did it because Russia canceled Western tours by Soviet artists and he thus felt the Soviet Union is "a political territory and no longer a place for liberty and humanity."

The Hamburg-born pianist made a tour of the United States last fall.

PX Probe Turns to Cole Caper

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate investigators were told Tuesday of a brigadier general who suddenly vanished in Germany and when found would say only that he had been offered \$50,000 to take the Fifth Amendment and "keep his mouth shut."

Describing what one senator called "the lost weekend" of Brig. Gen. Earl Franklin Cole and what he himself called "the Cole Caper," Brig. Gen. Harley Moore, Army provost marshal general in Europe, testified high-level roadblocks were placed in the way of an investigation.

Chairman Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., of the Senate investigations subcommittee said he will pursue the possibility the case was whitewashed at Army headquarters in Washington.

Testifying that few of the important elements of Cole's version of his weekend disappearance in October 1969 checked out, Moore said he was unable to understand why details of accusations made against Cole in Vietnam, Germany and the United States were never brought together in one criminal investigation.

Any chance of prosecution disappeared last summer, he said, when Cole was allowed to retire on a \$1,100 monthly pension.

Before that the Army had removed Cole from command of the huge European post exchange system, demoted him to colonel and stripped him of a Distinguished Service Medal.

Cole is scheduled to testify Wednesday.

In the Senate hearings, witnesses have accused Cole of repeated intervention to protect questionable sales operations in Vietnam and to influence sales of slot machines, whisky and beer to clubs and PX's.

On Oct. 10, 1969, shortly after a witness at Senate hearings in Washington had linked him to a high-rolling sales entrepreneur in Vietnam, Cole told a superior officer he was leaving his post for the weekend.

Moore said Cole's explanation he had been asked to a meeting with FBI and Treasury agents proved false and because of fear the general might have fallen victim to foul play, a Europe-wide search was started for him.

Two days later he reappeared at the Frankfurt airport.

Meanwhile a search of his staff car had revealed an unlocked briefcase containing secret documents concerning U.S. military operations in Vietnam. Cole told Gen. James H. Polk, commander in chief of the U.S. Army in Europe, that three men had met him in the Frankfurt airport and "offered him \$50,000 to take the Fifth Amendment and keep his mouth shut."

Economic Policy Held Flexible

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally declared Tuesday President Nixon's economic policies are flexible and can be changed rapidly if inflation persists during this year's expansion of the economy.

In a news conference with economics reporters, Connally refused to discuss his political plans for the 1972 presidential election. "I think I'll just sit back and listen for a while," he said.

He said Nixon's plan to reorganize the federal government has a good chance of passage in Congress this year, but he cast doubt on the chances for revenue-sharing, Nixon's pet proposal.

Connally, a Democrat and three-time Texas governor, said he will be more of an activist than his predecessor, David M. Kennedy, and said he enjoys a close relationship with Nixon.

He virtually ruled out any chance the administration will propose a major tax increase this year but he said a big tax boost might be possible later. "Not this year, maybe not next year, but it depends on the circumstances," he said.

Connally said he is more optimistic about the economy than he was when Nixon appointed him last December. He said he based his view primarily on talks with businessmen.

He rejected suggestions that Nixon had abandoned his fight to control inflation.

"I think the administration has been in a paradoxical situation for quite some time" with respect to trying to scale down unemployment and inflation at the same time, he said.

"It requires a very delicate balance and the administration gets criticized from both sides. Obviously, the administration is trying to walk the middle ground, the economic tightrope."

At present, Connally said, Nixon's economic policies are "sufficient to slow the pace of inflation."

"Obviously, if it is found to be incorrect, you can assume the administration will be flexible enough to pursue other measures."

Asked if he plans to participate in the 1972 Democratic convention, Connally said, "I think I'll make no comment along those lines at all."

He said once Congress understands that Nixon's governmental reorganization plan will not abolish any committees, "much of the opposition to reorganization will abate and people will realize that this is not a political debate."

As for revenue-sharing, "it's going to be tougher, simply because of the apparent determined opposition of Chairman Mills," referring to Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and a staunch opponent of revenue sharing.

"Any time he opposes you,

you've got trouble," Connally said.

Connally said he opposes alternative plans, such as federalization of welfare costs.

Connally said the business community should assume its

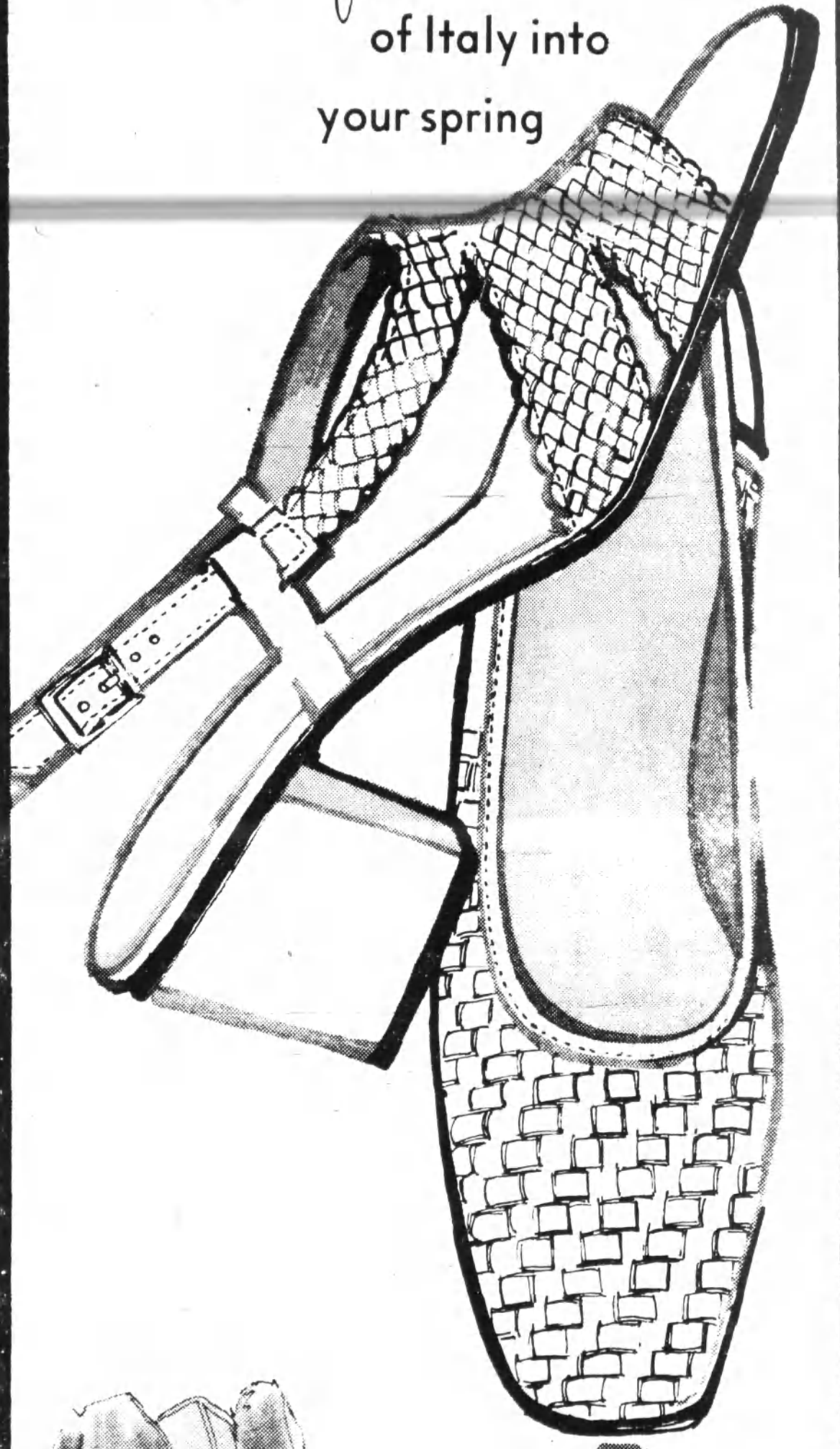
share of the burden in trying to control the rate of inflation. He said in talks to businessmen in recent weeks, he has posed the question:

"What the hell have you done to help?" They all want

to be free enterprisers, but when you ask them what they've done, they say it's a matter for the administration and a matter for the President. The truth is, it's a matter for everybody."

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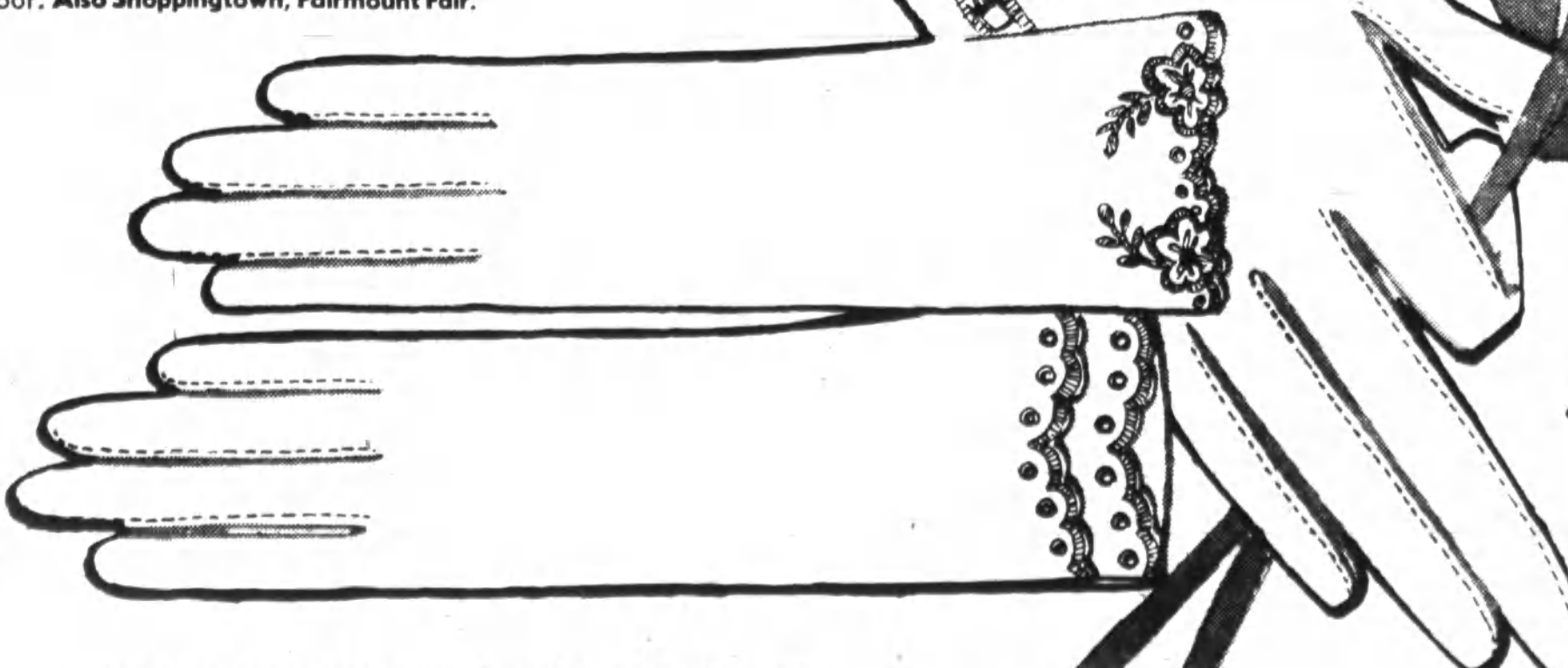
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