

T

o celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.

1968

Intelligencer Journal.

Just For Today

The guillotine cut off a lot of heads, but not nearly as many as amateur photographers.

174th YEAR.—NO. 250.

CITY EDITION

Metropolitan Lancaster 1960 U.S. Census 278,359

LANCASTER, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1968.

Weather
(U.S. Weather Bureau)
Partly Cloudy, Windy
And Cooler.
(Details On Page 60)

Price 10c — Home Delivered 50c A Week.

Martin Luther King is Killed By Assassin at Memphis Motel

Bombing Missions Curtailed

No Air Strikes
Near 20th Parallel
In Over 24 Hours

SAIGON (AP) — American sources said Friday no U.S. air strikes had been reported in near the 20th parallel in North Vietnam for more than 24 hours, prompting speculation that President Johnson may be further curtailing the bombing of the North.

On the ground, the relief of the Marine combat base at Khe Sanh, in South Vietnam's northwest corner, appeared imminent. Lead elements were reported within half a mile of the beleaguered base's perimeter Thursday night.

The U.S. Command said only 17 Americans had been killed and 115 wounded in the first days of the Khe Sanh relief drive, which began Monday. A North Vietnamese broadcast monitored in Tokyo claimed 400 of the Americans were killed in fighting Thursday.

NO COMMENT

The U.S. Command declined comment on reports from Friday over North Vietnam, leaving unconfirmed the speculation about new bombing curbs near the 20th parallel, set by President Johnson as the northern limit for U.S. raids under his order announced Sunday to des-escalate the air war.

In its morning communiqué Friday, U.S. headquarters mentioned a strike 225 miles north of the demilitarized zone and less than one mile south of the 20th parallel during the early morning hours Thursday.

Operation Pegasus, the drive to open Khe Sanh, reported meeting only light opposition from artillery and mortar fire since jumping off from Ca Lu, 12 miles west. Soviet reports in the east said that the North Vietnamese were a good-will gesture, but there was no confirmation from Hanoi.

PACED BY BOMBS

Another reason advanced for the lack of sizeable opposition was the incessant American bombing of the area, with aircraft in Khe Sanh itself, of North Vietnamese positions during the past three months.

In other developments early Friday:

Allied military spokesman said the Viet Cong shelled 1 U.S. and South Vietnamese military positions Thursday night.

More BOMBING Page 6

Shocked By Death

LBJ Urges Rejection Of 'Blind Violence'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson spoke Thursday night of an "America shocked and saddened" by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King as he condemned violence, lawlessness and divisiveness.

In a brief, solemn message to the nation, Johnson disclosed that because of the slaying at Memphis, he had canceled plans for a political appearance Thursday night and postponed until Friday his scheduled midnight departure for Hawaii and a Vietnam conference on problems of war and peace in Vietnam.

He was to have attended a Democratic fund-raising dinner at a Washington Hotel Thursday night and was only minutes from leaving the White House when the tragic news came from Memphis.

The White House said Johnson had telephoned Mrs. King at her home in Atlanta and ex-

nonviolence."

The President urged prayers for peace and understanding in the land and said:

"We are a nation divided by lawlessness and divisiveness among the American people."

He said he hopes all Americans would search their hearts.

At that point he said he was cancelling all plans for the evening and postponing until Friday his planned take-off for Hawaii and conferences there on problems of war and peace in Vietnam.

At the President's insistence, the dinner was called off.

The President appeared in the doorway of a White House office, stern-faced and sporting an television and radio networks.

"I ask every American citizen," he said, "to reject the blind violence that has struck down Dr. King, who lived by

nonviolence."

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He was to have attended a Democratic fund-raising dinner at a Washington Hotel Thursday night and was only minutes from leaving the White House when the tragic news came from Memphis.

The White House said Johnson had telephoned Mrs. King at her home in Atlanta and ex-

pressed his sympathy. Johnson was in his office talking with his Ambassador to Moscow, Llewellyn Thompson, when word of King's death reached him.

The text of President Johnson's statement:

"America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King."

"I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King who lived by nonviolence."

"I pray that his family can find comfort in the memory of all he tried to do for the land he loved so well. I have just conveyed the sympathy of Mrs. Johnson and myself to his widow, Mrs. King."

MOURNS LOSS

"I know that every American of good will joins me in praying for peace and understanding throughout this land."

"We can achieve nothing by lawlessness and divisiveness among the American people."

"We can only work together and only by working together can we continue to move toward equality and fulfillment for all of our people."

"I hope that all Americans tonight will search their hearts as they ponder this most tragic incident."

"I have canceled my plans for the evening. I am postponing my trip to Hawaii until tomorrow."

"Thank you."

The speaker was Martin Luther King Jr. His audience was a cheering crowd of some 2,000 supporters. It was Wednesday night.

Less than 24 hours later, the nation's foremost apostle of non-violence was dead—the victim of an assassin's bullet—as he stood on the threshold of the biggest test of the theories he espoused.

AWARE OF THREATS

King said Wednesday night that he was aware the threats had been made on his life. But he said he had seen the fulfillment of his goals of non-violence and did not worry about the future.

He said his flight to Memphis from Atlanta Tuesday had been delayed because of a baggage search which airlines officials said resulted from threats to him.

"And there have been some threats around here," he added.

"We've got some difficult days ahead, but it really doesn't matter now," King said. "Because I've been to the mountaintop."

And Andrew Young, executive vice president of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said he had heard King make similar remarks only once before—at Demopolis, Ala., during his 1964 Selma march.

A PREMONITION?

"I don't know whether it was premonition or not," Young said as he stood in the lobby of a Memphis hotel where the Nobel Peace Prize winner had been taken after he was felled by the bullet.

The supreme test of the theory of non-violence was to have come next Monday, when King planned to lead a massive march down the path where violence had been after he was felled by the bullet.

The first time in King's long history of civil rights activity that one of his drives had erupted into violence. He was clearly disturbed.

QUIZZED ON VIOLENCE

Young, testifying at a federal court hearing six hours before King was shot, was asked by U.S. Dist. Judge Bailey Bradford effect violence in the upcoming march would have on King.

"I would say that Dr. King would consider it a repudiation of his philosophy and his whole way of life," Young replied. "I don't know when I've seen him as discouraged and depressed."

Dr. King Spoke Here 5 Years Ago

"The system of segregation is on its deathbed and the only question is how costly the segregation will make its finality."

The Lancaster County Council of Churches, through the executive secretary, the Rev. Richard E. Grant, asked all Richard E. Grant, asked all

Dr. King to pray and

for forgiveness and

power that each may continue

the task of creating a society of justice, love and brotherhood.

TOPICS' SPEAKER

When Dr. King spoke during the Topic's series sponsored by Dr. Llewellyn Thompson, he was introduced by the school's President Keith Spalding who said, "He is often described as a Negro leader. I prefer to present him to you as a leader of the American people."

Spalding said Thursday,

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