

paper with a man in Saigon who kept a sharp eye on the daily communiques could get figures on enemy-initiated attacks. Obviously the totals on enemy attacks do not keep any information from the enemy he does not already know. This is political not military censorship, designed not to confuse the enemy but to hide what is going on from the American public. We hope some members of Congress will insist that these figures be released.

The course in Vietnam becomes clearer if one compares it with U Thant's original 3-point plan for peace. At his press conference January 28 the Secretary General noted that two of the points had been put into effect—the bombing of the North had ended and talks among all the parties involved had begun. U Thant's third point was a gradual de-escalation of the fighting. Instead of de-escalating in response to the considerable de-escalation on the other side, we have been stepping up both ground and aerial action in the South, as we have the bombings over Laos.

Tacitly or explicitly, it is now becoming clearer. Johnson exacted a sharp price when he ended the bombing of the North. He imposed severe restrictions on enemy activity while making it possible for us to increase ours. The Nixon administration is carrying on the strategy of Johnson's. This strategy has two elements. The first is to threaten resumption of the bombing in the North if the other side should resume substantial forays or shellings from the DMZ or should attack the larger cities. The second is to take advantage of these military limitations on the other side to move considerable forces from the northern part of South Vietnam where they have been on guard against a possible invasion from the DMZ. These forces have been moved south, for "pacification" operations in the Mekong Delta. This has been a guerilla stronghold since the earliest days of the uprising against the French. The aim is to reconquer the Delta for the Saigon regime.

THE SEMANTICS OF ACCELERATED WAR

The bombing of the North ended Nov. 1. The escalation from our side began at the same time. In the three months since more than 2,000 Americans have lost their lives. White House orders explain the rising casualty lists. Clark Clifford lifted the curtain on them last November 24 when he said "General Abrams has specific instructions to maintain constant and intensive pressure on the enemy." The fight-and-talk strategy was ours. Our Madison Avenue-minded military invented a new soap ad phrase to sell this accelerated warfare. They renamed it "accelerated pacification." Clifford added loyally that this was "the right psychology and the right strategy to follow now," but he expressed the hope that when "we begin to make progress in Paris" and agreement "in certain areas" was reached "then instruction could be given by Hanoi to their battlefield commanders, and instruction could be given here by President Johnson to General Abrams to withdraw from contacts...with enemy forces." The enemy began withdrawing from contact and trying to evade battle months ago. But there has been no de-escalation on our side. Three weeks later on *Face the Nation*, Clifford (see p. 1 box) declared himself "inordinately impatient with the continued deaths of American boys in Vietnam" and urged a cease-fire. Neither Johnson nor Nixon seem to share this impatience. Nixon can cut the casualties any time he orders de-escalation and a defensive strategy, as proposed by Senator McGovern in a speech Feb. 3 to Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam.

The premise of negotiations is that neither side can win a military victory. If we are negotiating, why go on killing? If we hope to achieve our aims in South Vietnam by a stepup in the killing, why negotiate? The

cynical answer is that the negotiations serve as a smokescreen. Neither the U.S. military nor the Saigon regime ever wanted to negotiate. The Paris talks for them only make it easier to continue the war. There is a steady flow of optimistic stories from Saigon on how well the war is now going. One by Charles Mohr in the *New York Times* Jan. 3 put its finger on a crucial, though nonmilitary factor. "One important factor on which present optimism is based," Mohr wrote, "is the hope that a decision to continue to prosecute the war can be reconciled with the domestic American desire 'to ease the pain'".

REALITIES FEW NOTICE

Few notice the realities reflected in the last AP weekly casualty report from Saigon (*Washington Post*, Jan. 31). *The report covered the week ended Jan 18 (196 U.S. dead and 1277 wounded) and the week ended Jan. 25 (190 U.S. dead and 1224 wounded)* Why are casualties still so heavy? The AP explained that while "there has been no sustained large-scale fighting since last Fall... thousands of U.S. and government troops carry out daily operations in search of the elusive enemy" It added that "pushes are also being made into areas long held by the Vietcong, and in these, even when no opposition is encountered, there are casualties from mines and booby traps." *How long can these offensive operations go on without a counter-offensive from the other side? As we write, for the first time in three months, there have been three battalion size enemy attacks in the past few days. It is time to make the U.S. public aware of all this before fighting flares up again in full fury.*

It is nonsense to say that you cannot have a cease-fire in Vietnam. Fighting ended in the first Vietnamese war when a cease-fire was negotiated at Geneva in 1954. Then it was part of the general settlement. The question is one of policy, not feasibility. The Viet Cong and Hanoi oppose a cease-fire until there has been a political settlement. The U.S. and Saigon don't want a cease-fire until there has been a military "settlement". They cling to the old hope that the war will end with the enemy "fading away", a favorite phrase of Henry Cabot Lodge whom Nixon resuscitated to be his chief negotiator at Paris. The U.S. military seem to be making their plans on the assumption that there will be no settlement in Paris. They plan a prolonged American occupation, though on a reduced scale. "From those most deeply involved in overall strategy" in Saigon and Washington, *U.S. News & World Report* Jan. 27 reported that our military foresee a slow reduction of U.S. forces in Vietnam to 200,000 men by the end of 1971. They set that level as "the basis for a long-haul, low-cost effort in Vietnam that could continue indefinitely." On such a scale "low cost" could still mean \$5 or \$6 billion. The military men *U.S. News* interviewed regard Korea as a precedent. There we still have 50,000 men 15 years after the shooting stopped. We also have no peace treaty, a continued trickle of casualties and the ever present danger that the war may break out again at any time. That is not a comforting precedent.

CEASE-FIRE AGITATION IN SAIGON

For the Vietnamese people the end of bombing in the North has meant an intensified terror from the skies in the South. B-52s are employed like buckshot, spreading destruction over wide areas, often on the edge of the cities, wherever we think a few guerillas may be hiding. Nobody but the victims have any conception of what this horror means. It is not strange that in Saigon, despite press control and the thousands imprisoned for peace agitation, the cry for a cease-fire has been rising, though little reported in the U.S. press. Both *Le Monde* (Jan. 28-29) and *Le Figaro* (Jan. 29) report that elements which have hitherto strongly supported Thieu have joined the militant Budd-

hists in demanding a cease-fire. They quote Father Ca Van Lau, head of the Dan-Tien bloc in the Saigon Chamber of Deputies, as calling for a cease-fire now, as have two leaders of the Don Xa and the Grand Union Forces, organs respectively of the Hoa Hao sect and one faction of the Catholics. Both parties demonstrated last November in favor of Thieu. Now both parties have swung over to the Buddhist demand for an immediate cease-fire. *In this, as in so much else, we are very poorly informed as to what ordinary Vietnamese think. To call for peace is still to risk jail in Saigon.* The unengaged voice of popular sentiment may be better expressed in a manifesto issued in Paris (*Le Monde*, Jan. 30) of a Movement of the Free Forces of Vietnam, representing both civilian exiles and former Vietnamese officers who fought in the army organized by the French. It terms the present regime "nothing but a prolongation of the Fascist regime of Ngo Dinh Diem", which "governs by terror". It calls for its replacement by a provisional government which can negotiate in Paris with the Viet Cong and Hanoi.

This parallels the position taken by Hanoi and the NLF in the Paris peace talks. The NLF spokesman called for the formation of a broadly representative provisional government in Saigon which would organize "free general elections in South Vietnam" and be prepared to deal with the NLF in the Paris talks as an independent and equal party. (See texts in *Le Monde*, Jan. 28). "Although they speak of negotiations for peace," the NLF delegate to the Paris talks said, "the United States continues to intensify the war," and still does not wish to renounce their aggressive aims in South Vietnam." We are paying heavily in American lives in an effort to impose the Saigon regime by force on the South Vietnamese. That is why the casualties rise as the peace talks go on.

[From the *New York Times*, Mar. 7, 1969]  
MR. NIXON AND THE VIETNAM CASUALTIES  
(By James Reston)

In a few weeks, at the present casualty rate, more Americans will have been killed in Vietnam than in any other conflict in U.S. history except the Civil War and the two World Wars.

Last week, 453 Americans were killed in Vietnam and 2,593 wounded. This brought the total U.S. combat dead to 32,376—very close to the 33,629 total for the entire Korean War.

In the face of this terrible waste and killing, the urgent need for a new and creative effort to end the fighting is manifest. The negotiators are stuck in Paris. The new government in Washington is following the same old policies. The language of the war is lower but the cost is higher.

THE DEATH TALKS

In fact, 9,425 Americans have been killed in Vietnam since the preliminary peace talks began in Paris last May 13, and 2,319 of these have died since South Vietnam joined the enlarged talks last Dec. 7.

The carnage among the Vietnamese meanwhile is almost beyond comprehension. On the enemy side alone, according to the official U.S. command in Saigon, at least 457,131 Vietcong and North Vietnamese soldiers have been killed since the beginning of 1961 when the United States entered the war, and nobody has the heart to estimate the dead among the civilian population, North and South.

The reaction to all this is remarkably casual. Even expressions of pity are now seldom heard. The enemy continues his rocket attacks on Saigon. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge says in Paris that "the consequences of these attacks" are the enemy's responsibility. President Nixon says that if the attacks go on, he will make "some response that is appropriate." And Secretary of De-

fense Laird says in Saigon: "We will not tolerate continued enemy escalation of the war."

There is not even any agreement on the terms of the Paris peace talks or on whether the enemy was first to step up the military pressure, or vice versa. Washington says it had an "understanding" that there would be no enemy attacks on the cities if it stopped the bombing of North Vietnam. Hanoi holds there was no such understanding. Hanoi says the U.S. kept up the bombing pressure and the search-and-destroy raids early this year; Washington says it did so in response to the enemy's increasing pressure.

Meanwhile, despite all the recent expressions of mutual understanding between President Nixon and officials of the Soviet Union and the Western European countries, the efforts of London, Paris, Moscow and even the United Nations to bring about a cease-fire have virtually ceased.

#### THE CRITICAL POINT

In this situation, it is fairly clear that President Nixon is not going to get a settlement without a shift in policy. He has apparently been hoping that by sounding reasonable toward both Saigon and Hanoi, the enemy will come forward with the compromise President Johnson could not get, but this is not forthcoming.

The sticking point for the enemy is his doubt that the United States intends to withdraw from that peninsula. Hanoi simply cannot believe that the United States would sacrifice over 32,000 lives and spend over \$30 billion a year in defense of a principle, then make peace and take its men back home.

In actual fact, there is reason for believing that if Mr. Nixon could get a negotiated peace, he would be willing to do precisely that, but he has not made the point clear, and so long as the enemy is in doubt about this critical point, the chances are that the war will go on indefinitely.

If this intention were emphatically stated instead of merely being discussed around the White House as a likely objective of U.S. policy, then it might be possible to bring the influence of the world community, including the Soviet Union, to bear on the Paris talks.

#### THE WISHFUL WAITING

But the President hesitates. He is still hoping the old policy will work simply because it is in new hands and is being expressed in different language. He is back on the brink again of one more military response to the enemy's attacks, though there is no evidence that the enemy, having lost over 450,000 men, will hesitate to keep on sacrificing until it is sure American power will definitely be removed as part of any settlement.

Sooner or later, Mr. Nixon will probably have to come to this decision, and the longer he waits, the harder it will be to make the switch, the greater the danger of one more round of escalation, and the higher the death tolls.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 9, 1969]

#### THE PRESIDENT'S VIETNAM TEST

The challenge confronting President Nixon in the current Vietcong offensive is to resist the Lyndon Johnson tendency to react, in the words of one high official of the old Administration, "as if his manhood were at stake."

The sudden doubling of American casualties in South Vietnam is a bitter new indication of the high price of this dismal war, one that makes clearer than ever the necessity for ending it with maximum speed. That endeavor will not be aided by another rash of self-defeating responses dictated by frustration and anger.

In his foreign policy news conference last week, President Nixon confirmed that the

Communist attacks in South Vietnam have been "primarily directed toward military targets." Only "technically," in his phrase, do they contravene the American warning that attacks against major cities would make it impossible to maintain the bombing halt.

Several factors need considering before an Administration decision on what to do about the present attacks. The first is that experience at all stages of the war indicate that Communist offensives soon run out of supplies and that their duration is not significantly affected by bombing North Vietnam.

Before President Johnson ordered the halt last Nov. 1, it had become abundantly clear that attempts at aerial interdiction of supply routes through North Vietnam were incapable of stopping the tortuous flow of arms and equipment into the South. Nor has the punishment and economic damage inflicted on the North ever visibly shaken Hanoi's will to fight.

The most predictable effect of precipitate resumption of the bombing would be to alienate world opinion again and hamper negotiations on Vietnam and other critical issues with the Russians. It certainly would halt the Paris talks, prolong the war and escalate the fighting, thus increasing instead of reducing the ultimate cost in American casualties.

Moreover, as former Ambassador Harriman last week told James A. Wechsler of The New York Post, the present Vietcong offensive is "essentially a response to our actions rather than a deliberate, reckless attempt to dictate the peace term or torpedo the talks." General Abrams after the Nov. 1 bombing halt was instructed by Washington to maintain "allout pressure on the enemy" in South Vietnam.

Pentagon figures show that from November to January the number of allied battalion-sized operations increased more than one-third, from 800 to 1,077. Of these 919 were South Vietnamese, 84 American and 74 combined. Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese pulled all but three of their 25 regiments in the northern sections of South Vietnam back across the borders. This freed more than a full division of American troops to join in maximum military pressure further south as a means of maintaining morale there and encouraging Saigon to get into the Paris talks.

American spokesmen have heralded successes on the battlefield and in renewed pacification efforts as improving both the allied bargaining position in Paris and the Saigon Government's chances for surviving a peace settlement. There have even been repeated claims that an allied military victory was ripe for the taking.

The United States simply cannot have it both ways. It cannot demand the right to press the fighting with increased vigor itself while charging doublecross whenever the Communists do the same. The sad fact is that the Paris talks have been left on dead center while Ambassador Lodge awaits a White House go-ahead for making new peace proposals or for engaging in private talks out of which the only real progress is likely to come. Everything has been stalled while the Nixon Administration completes its military and diplomatic review.

Now that the Communists have responded with a new military offensive in South Vietnam, the United States will simply have to grit its teeth and see the battle through. Hanoi as well as Washington and Saigon must once again learn the hard way that military victory is an impossibility for both sides, that the sole real hope lies in ending the drift in the peace talks. Anything either side does to retard progress there simply condemns more life and treasure to destruction in the bottomless pit that is the Vietnam war.

#### OTEPKA TO RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

### HON. JOHN M. ASHBROOK

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1969

Mr. ASHBROOK. Mr. Speaker, there is much justifiable elation over the recent news stories that Otto F. Otepka, the State Department security officer who had been demoted by former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, was to be offered the position of Commissioner on the Subversive Activities Control Board, a Presidential appointment.

Concerned about his good name and the stigma on his record of the State Department action, Mr. Otepka was fearful that his vindication of the charges would still be left in doubt. When assured that the Presidential appointment would wipe out any hint of wrongdoing on his part, the security evaluations officer accepted.

As a lawyer and by virtue of his long involvement in security and subversive matters, Mr. Otepka is well qualified to sit on the Board, a quasi-judicial agency which rules on subversive cases referred to it by the Justice Department. In the past there has been some misunderstanding concerning the function of the SACB. It has been overlooked by some people in high places that the Board cannot initiate action, but must wait for referral by the Justice Department before swinging into operation. The responsibility for any inaction on the part of the SACB in the past must be traced directly to the Justice Department under Attorney General Ramsey Clark. As the newsweekly, Human Events, points out, it is a new ball game as far as the SACB is concerned for "Attorney General John Mitchell has every intention of breathing new life into the Board."

Two publications which have worked long and hard in behalf of justice for Otto Otepka are the Chicago Tribune and the above-mentioned Human Events. Mr. Willard Edwards, Tribune's veteran newsman, has expended untold effort and time in bringing to public attention the many ramifications of the case. Human Events, and in particular its Capitol Hill Reporter Allan Ryskind, has likewise performed a journalistic service by helping the public keep abreast of this long and arduous case over the years. They are certainly to be commended for their efforts which at times must certainly appear to be all but futile.

I insert at this point the column "Otepka Vindicated," from the March 15, 1969, issue of Human Events and the story of Mr. Edwards in the Chicago Tribune of March 7, 1969, in the RECORD:

[From Human Events, Mar. 15, 1969]

#### OTEPKA VINDICATED

Intent on keeping his campaign promise to accord justice to Otto F. Otepka, President Nixon last week offered the former high-ranking State Department security officer an important position with the Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB). The board's main job is to search out Communist-front organizations.

The tender was an apparent rebuff to Secretary of State William P. Rogers, who, as early as January 21, it is now learned, had made up his mind that he did not want Otepka to work in the department. Two weeks ago Rogers formally notified Otepka he would not be reinstated in the security duties which have been his life's work.

Rogers, it seems, had fallen for the anti-Otepka line dished out to him by former Secretary of State Dean Rusk and did not want to antagonize current holdovers in the department—particularly Idar Rimestad deputy under secretary for administration, the man who would have been Otepka's superior had he been reinstated.

The proposed Presidential nomination to the SACB is regarded as a victory for Otepka in his five-year fight for vindication after he was constantly harassed, fired-pending-hearings, demoted and then stripped of security duties for telling the truth and demanding that the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations adhere to proper security procedures.

Otepka agreed to accept the nomination—which must be approved by the Senate—only after consulting Sens. Strom Thurmond (R.-S.C.), Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) and Everett Dirksen (R.-Ill.). They assured him that a White House nomination would erase all the charges previously leveled against him by the State Department under Rusk.

Roger Robb, the skilled attorney who vigorously defended Otepka through his harassment, called it a "glorious vindication" and there is some indication that Nixon may make the announcement from the White House with Otepka by his side.

In accepting the offer, Otepka was assured by Dirksen that the SACB would become a vigorous arm of the government. Under the Johnson Administration, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark deliberately weakened the board by refusing to forward cases to it, but Atty. Gen. John Mitchell has every intention of breathing new life into the board.

Otepka's involvement in security matters may increase even further if the Senate, as Dirksen also promised Otepka, gets to work on S. 12, a special piece of legislation that would enormously enhance the powers of the SACB.

Sponsored by Sen. James Eastland (D.-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, this bill would create a special Security Administration for Executive Departments which would take over the task of conducting security checks on government employes working in such major departments as Defense and State. Currently, each of the departments conducts its own security checks.

Under the clear intent of the bill, the administrator of this new security panel would also be the Chairman of the Subversive Activities Control Board (now the very respected John W. Mahan). The other four members of the SACB would also be involved in helping out with the work of the new security panel.

Thus, if S. 12 becomes law, it is very likely that Otto Otepka will be involved in more security work than he had ever been in the State Department. To help Otto become fully vindicated, *Human Events* readers should now start asking what their lawmakers are going to do about S. 12.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Mar. 7, 1969]  
SECURITY JOB FOR OTEPKA—NIXON OFFERS  
SUBVERSIVE BOARD POST—DIRKSEN ADVISES  
HIM TO ACCEPT

(By Willard Edwards)

WASHINGTON, March 6.—President Nixon tonight fulfilled his pledge to accord justice to Otto F. Otepka by offering him appointment to the subversive activities control board, one of top security posts in the government.

The proposed nomination was regarded as a victorious climax to Otepka's five-year fight for vindication against what a Senate subcommittee termed "calculated and extraordinary harassment" for conscientious performances of his duties.

Otepka, after consulting with Senators Dirksen (R., Ill.) and Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), said he was agreeable to the nomination which is subject to scrutiny by the Senate.

**FIRED IN 1963 BY RUSK**

He was assured by both that, in their opinion, the appointment canceled out all the charges previously leveled against him by the state department under secretary Dean Rusk.

Rusk fired Otepka in November, 1963, on charges of conduct unbecoming a state department officer. Four years later, Rusk was compelled to cancel the discharge but he substituted a severe reprimand and a demotion which cut Otepka's salary as chief of evaluations, office of security, from \$20,000 to \$14,000 a year.

**ADVISED TO ACCEPT**

If confirmed as a member of the SACB, Otepka will receive a \$36,000 salary. The board has jurisdiction over all cases involving communist organizations and individuals forwarded by the attorney general for rulings.

Otepka carefully considered the appointment before agreeing to accept it. He was prepared, if necessary, to reject it and appeal to the courts but members of the Senate and his attorney, Roger Robb, persuaded him that a Presidential nomination was the equivalent of a court opinion clearing him of all charges alleging misconduct.

At a Senate hearing on his nomination, it was noted, a record can be made which will emphasize his clearance.

Dirksen also assured him that he was not being appointed to a board which will be ineffective. Under the Johnson administration, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark made an attempt to weaken the board by not forwarding cases to it. Dirksen said he had been informed by Nixon's attorney general, John Mitchell, that the board will be a vigorous branch of the government.

In naming Otepka, Nixon was keeping a promise he made during his Presidential campaign to see that "justice is accorded to this man who has served his country so long and so well."

**ROGERS WAS RELUCTANT**

Secretary of State William P. Rogers, however, was reluctant to reinstate Otepka, in the state department as chief security officer.

Rogers informed Otepka's attorney that he could not see Otepka performing a useful service in his old post because holdover officials, hostile to him, would be his superiors. Rogers had been warned that a House appropriations subcommittee would slash his spending funds if he fired one of these officers, Idar Rimestad, deputy undersecretary for administration.

Otepka agreed that his position under these circumstances would be untenable. He continued, however, to demand reinstatement and a letter stating, in effect, that he had been wronged by false charges. If this was done, he said, he would seek suitable means to retire.

**DIRKSEN NOTES VACANCY**

As the deadlock continued, letters began to pour in on the White House, state department, and Congress, protesting that the President had not kept his campaign pledge. The heat, as one aid put it, was on.

Dirksen noted a Republican vacancy on the SACB [Otepka is a Republican] and suggested Otepka's appointment might serve the dual purpose of placing him in a high post and wiping the slate clean of all the allegations previously made against him.

The President and his secretary of state welcomed this solution. Goldwater talked

to the President and called Otepka, urging him to accept the nomination. Senators Strom Thurmond [R., S.C.] and James O. Eastland [D., Miss.], chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, also agreed that the appointment could be regarded as a complete vindication for Otepka.

They were joined in this urging by James Stewart, head of the American Defense fund, Palatine, Ill., which had raised \$27,000 for Otepka's legal expenses during the long battle and was prepared to raise more money if needed to finance a court appeal.

Otepka after talking it over with his wife, said his doubts were resolved. The arrangement was made final after a talk with Dirksen late today.

**HOPES TO CLEAR RECORD**

Otepka said he hoped the appointment, the subsequent Senate hearing, and floor debate, would make clear that the charges against him were false.

The Senate judiciary committee will consider the nomination. It is the parent of the Senate internal security subcommittee which called Otepka six years ago and called upon him to testify frankly about lax security in the state department. He responded and his troubles began.

Otepka's ordeal had started even earlier when he was called by Rusk and the late Robert F. Kennedy, then attorney general, in December, 1960, and asked to waive security investigations for a number of state department appointees then under consideration by President-elect Kennedy.

**WOULDN'T BREAK RULES**

He refused to break the rules. In the next two years, he was demoted, isolated, and put under surveillance and his telephone was tapped. Two state department officers, caught lying under oath in the Senate inquiry, were forced to resign.

When Rusk fired him, Otepka appealed under civil service regulations. The case dragged on for four years before most of the charges against him were dismissed and the discharge retracted. He continued to fight, however, taking leave without pay. He had to borrow from relatives and subsist on his wife's salary as a school teacher.

"I hope all my friends are right and that my record will be wiped clean of all stigma in the proceedings attending this nomination," he said. "The major issue here was a government employee's right to testify truthfully before a congressional committee. If this point has been made, I feel it was all worthwhile."

**BRIDGES TO THE SUN—THOUSANDS  
ENJOY INNUMERABLE ATTRAC-  
TIONS OF BEAUTIFUL FLORIDA  
KEYS**

**HON. DANTE B. FASCELL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1969

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, recent publication of the ninth annual Sunshine Strip edition of the "Florida Keys Keynote" again calls attention to one of the most beautiful places on earth—the Florida Keys. I congratulate the Keynote on its big new edition, which is packed with interesting and informative news, photography, and advertising concerning the Florida Keys.

I wish I could insert the entire edition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, for I am sure that my colleagues would greatly enjoy seeing this colorful and fascinating

publication. It is so large, however—88 pages, the biggest Keynoter ever—that this is impractical. Especially at this time when the wintry winds are blowing their hardest in Washington, D.C., readers of the RECORD would be cheered by the Florida Keys atmosphere of sunshine, warmth, and relaxation conveyed in the pages of this edition.

The "Conchs," as native residents of the keys are called, say that it never even frosts in the Florida Keys. Each time I have the pleasure of visiting this part of my congressional district, I marvel at the natural beauty of the water and island environment that stretches from the mainland to Key West, the southernmost tip of the east coast. There are 42 bridges on the famous overseas highway that carries thousands of delighted visitors each year through this fabulous spectacle of ocean and sky. They are truly "Bridges to the Sun," which is the theme of this special Keynoter edition.

At one time the keys were among the most inaccessible parts of the United States, but that was before the bridges and highway were built. Now the keys boast a variety of parks, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas that provide many delightful moments for the thousands of visitors who come each year to marvel and enjoy.

One of the most unusual and fascinating parks in the world is found in the keys—the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the only underseas park in the continental United States. Here, glass-bottomed boats carry visitors over a spectacular panorama of multicolor coral reefs and the hulls of sunken ships which went down in rough seas centuries ago. Covering 75 miles lying in the Atlantic Ocean off Key Largo, this incredibly beautiful reef is a combination of State lands and Federal holdings that were preserved because they contain the only living reef formation along the North American coast. Forty of the 52 species of coral found in the Atlantic reef system are located in park waters, and these colorful submarine growths provide spawning grounds for millions of rainbow-colored tropical fish, sharks, barracudas, eels, turtles, and a fantastic variety of sea life. Not surprisingly, some 1,168,670 people have passed through the gates of John Pennekamp Park since it was opened in August 1963, and the annual number of visitors is expected to reach 500,000 in the next 5 years. It is named for a Miami editor active in conservation.

About 500,000 persons already come each year to a less spectacular but just as worthy Keys attraction—the National Key Deer Wildlife Refuge on Big Pine Key. I am proud to have had a part in the establishment of this refuge, whose purpose is to protect the miniature Florida Key deer. This charmin species had almost died out by 1947 through overhunting, poaching, and loss of environment to housing developments. Fortunately, visitors can now see Key deer in this protected sanctuary. Two other refuges are the Great White Heron Refuge, which was set up in 1938 on Big Pine Key and overlaps the Key Deer Refuge, and the Key West National

Wildlife Refuge which includes an area 15 miles wide extending 25 miles west of Key West.

Even further west of Key West, and not connected with the other keys by highway, are the seven Dry Tortugas Islands in the Fort Jefferson National Monument. The islands have long been famous for bird and marine life, as well as for legends of pirates and sunken gold. The century-old Fort Jefferson, largest of the 19th Century American coastal forts and one-time "key to the Gulf of Mexico," is the central feature. It was here in 1865 that Dr. Samuel A. Mudd was interred following his having treated John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln's assassin.

Another park greatly favored by visitors is the Bahia State Park, Florida's southernmost park. It is located on Bahia Honda Key where coconut palms frame white, sandy beaches lapped by both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Skin and scuba diving, deep sea and shore fishing, boating, camping, and just lazing in the sun are among the prime pastimes. This is one of the most beautiful and popular parks in all of the keys.

While fishing, swimming, sightseeing, boating, and just plain relaxing are the principal lures which attract so many Americans to the Florida Keys, it should be pointed out that such tourism is by no means the only source of growth and financial input for the keys. The impressive range of advertisements in the "Keynoter" reflects a solid base of permanent population and business enterprise. At Marathon, for example, the population has grown 140 percent in the last decade.

The upper keys, too, are coming in for their share of the population and building boom. They are expected to get about half of an estimated \$10,000,000 in new building construction during 1969 in the middle and upper keys. Work has already started on one multimillion-dollar motel-inn complex in Islamorada where at least two other resort installations have or will undergo \$500,000 or more in expansion. New home construction is also at an all time high.

Currently, the keys are enjoying one of their finest periods of growth and economic activity. This winter, more visitors than ever before are pouring in; the bustle of commerce and tourism attests to the growing popularity of the keys as a prime vacation attraction.

The Keynoter editorializes:

Records for most businesses are showing an increase again this year. There are more businesses in the Keys today than ever before, with more being added and the old ones pushed to expand to take care of the influx of visitors.

More and more people are finding that the Keys are nice for more than just a brief respite from the snow and cold back home. Often beginning with a few days or perhaps a couple of weeks, many visitors are working toward a full-time residence.

It's not a "retirement village." New people of all ages are moving in. Young couples with their families. If you don't believe it, just check the bulging sides of schools in the Keys. It's a job to keep expanding the schools to keep ahead of the increase in students.

Keys growth isn't of the boomtown style with accompanying honky-tonk. Growth is steady and solid. Chain stores and motels are

moving in and many others are looking for locations.

So from famous Key West, the largest and most well-known keys city, to the mainland, the keys are embarked on a development boom that I believe will surpass even the most optimistic expectations of their current residents. I will be delighted to watch this growth as it occurs, and do all that I can to bring even greater prosperity to the keys.

On the cover of the special "Keynoter" edition is a color photograph of a glowing Florida Keys sunset and the shadowing piers of Indian Key Bridge, where a lone fisherman enjoys the beauty of the water and sky. Everywhere in the Florida Keys are such fabulous spots of natural beauty, which delight and enchant the beholder. As a Member of Congress, I am fortunate indeed to represent this unique and fascinating area. I congratulate the Florida Keys as they continue their remarkable trend of growth and progress.

FARMERS: UNITE OR PERISH

HON. ALVIN E. O'KONSKI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1969

Mr. O'KONSKI. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago I inserted a speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD emphasizing the importance of and need for the collective-bargaining program of the National Farmers Organization. Today the problems confronting the farmer are even more acute, and I believe that the NFO program is still the only answer.

I am therefore up-dating that speech because I believe it has even more merit today.

NECESSARY STEPS TO BE TAKEN FOR SUCCESSFUL BARGAINING IN AGRICULTURE—NFO IS MAKING PROGRESS

Mr. Speaker, this is a detailed and comprehensive study covering the marketing of agricultural products. Information and data included in this study is based on U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics and reports, studies and information gathered from colleges and universities, information compiled by an NFO Research Committee and on an analysis prepared by this committee. The NFO Research Committee was made up of NFO leaders with varied backgrounds and experiences, including men with degrees from some of the Nation's leading colleges and universities.

FARM PROBLEM GETTING WORSE

It has become quite apparent in the last 12 years that general economic conditions in agriculture are worsening.

The Nation's economy has made tremendous growth in the last 20 years. The national gross product has made spectacular gains almost without interruption. Agricultural producers are the only major segment of the economy that have not shared in this continually increasing prosperity of the Nation.

Every farmer, through his own personal experience, is familiar with the fact that the price of the products he has to sell has been steadily decreasing\* with