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ON

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JACK ANDERSON SAYS: U.S. CREDIT WITHDRAWAL PUTS ISRAEL AT MILITARY DISADVANTAGE; RUSSIA SPEEDS ARMS TO ARAB FORCES; BOOKIES HAVE INSIDE TRACK ON TV RACE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON--By spiking arms sales overseas, the Senate has virtually cut off Israel's supply of aircraft parts and has caused a critical decline in Israeli air superiority in the Middle East.

The Senate blocked credit for arms sales as an angry reaction against the American habit of financing little wars around the world. The idea was to prevent opposing armies, such as the Arabs and Jews, from fighting one another with American arms.

Yet the real result has been to increase, not decrease, the threat of a renewed confrontation in the volatile Mideast area. The brake on the sale of U.S. military equipment abroad will leave Israel desperately short of the engines and parts needed to maintain first-line efficiency in combat planes.

Since France has also shut off supplies to Israel, the tiny but tough little nation has no reliable source of aircraft spares.

By contrast, Russia has been rushing equipment to the Arab forces. The United Arab Republic has already received more than 200 MIGs, most of them more modern than the ones destroyed by the Israeli air blitz. This represents more than a 50 per cent replacement of war losses.

A reported 200 tanks and 150 artillery pieces have also been replaced by the Russians. This amounts to about 50 per cent of the tanks and 25 per cent of the artillery that the Arabs lost in action.

It is true that the United States also sold arms to the Arabs before the Middle East outbreak. The greatest share, however, went to Jordan and Saudi Arabia to bolster their pro-American governments.

Without U.S. military supplies these governments might have fallen to the Nasserite extremists. The sales were made, it can be added, with the full knowledge and tacit consent of Israel.

(MORE)

By selling arms to rival countries the United States also has been able to influence their arms policies and has actually persuaded some countries to reduce their armaments. In 1965, for example, Argentina requested a shipment of supersonic jets, but U.S. officials were able to convince the Argentines to accept a smaller number of subsonic Navy fighters. Washington has urged Chile and Peru too not to acquire supersonic jets, though these countries have turned to Britain to fill their orders.

America will lose all its leverage, however, if Congress curtails arms shipments.

--NEWS NUGGETS--

Rigged races--In some instances, bookies have been able to learn in advance the winners of the "Let's Go to the Races" television film program, which is shown as a supermarket promotion in several cities. Agents for the Illinois Crime Investigating Commission, for example, were able to get the winning numbers in advance from their informants. Explained agent James Kelleher in one report: "The informant told me that many taverns and tavern owners and bookmakers were taking advantage of having the winning horses before the races were run on television by accepting bets and placing bets....The bookmakers who knew the winning numbers could book bets on all the other horses in the race knowing that they would not win. If someone by chance wanted to bet on a number that the bookmaker knew was to be the winner, the bookmaker could merely say he did not want to take the bet because he already had booked his limit."

Lady guerrillas--The Marine Corps' handsome, strapping Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, back from the Vietnam war, gave ex-Marines in Congress a fighting speech the other morning at a private breakfast in room B-340 of the Sam Rayburn Building. He complained that opponents of the Vietnam war were prolonging it by encouraging the communists to believe that the United States might tire and pull out. As evidence of their desperation, he reported that the Viet Cong are now conscripting women to help with the fighting. (Among the distinguished ex-Marines at Walt's private breakfast was Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.)

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Garrison's obsession--Jim Garrison looks upon his investigation of the Kennedy assassination as a battle of wits between himself and a dead man. The New Orleans district attorney believes the late David Ferrie master-minded the plot to assassinate President Kennedy. Ferrie was a weird person, once darkly handsome, who had lost all his hair and had fastened a ragged, homemade wig on his bald pate with Scotch Tape. Over his eyes he had pasted looping, black, caterpillar eyebrows that didn't match. Yet Ferrie was a brilliant man, a crack pilot who had flown for Eastern Airlines before his hair began falling out in batches. He had a doctor's knowledge of medicine, spoke several languages including Greek, and played the piano like a professional. He was once ordained a "bishop" in an obscure church and often discussed philosophy with clerics. He could speak learnedly on almost any subject from the topography of Cuba to nuclear physics. Ferrie was also a sex deviate who collected pornographic pictures and wrote ribald letters. He seemed to thrive on intrigue. Among his notes, for example, was this cryptic message in his own handwriting: "Send B's microfilm to Atlanta ritewing."

Senate his castle--George Mahoney, who stirred up national publicity last year by campaigning for governor of Maryland on the single slogan, "Your home is your castle," would now like to make the Senate his castle. He has his eye on the Senate seat of his fellow Democrat, Sen. Dan Brewster. Baltimore County Executive Dale Anderson asked Mahoney bluntly the other day how much it would cost to keep him out of the Democratic primary against Brewster. Retorted Mahoney: "Nothing could keep me out."

(END MGR FOR REL. SATURDAY, AUG. 26, 1967)

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