



Perspective

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

What's the good news for today?

Well, to begin with, last week the representatives from America and North Vietnam began their fourth year of peace talks in Paris. Yet, when you stop to remember that it took almost a year before the two groups could agree on a city and then another year to determine the shape of the table they would sit around, I guess they're not doing too bad. The news on the fourth anniversary was that the

Americans had rejected the long list of Viet Cong demands and at the same time, the Communists had rejected the demands of the Americans. The entire fiasco reads like the plot of an old Charlie Chaplin comedy directed and narrated by Donald Duck.

Concerning the war, Americans are divided into three opinion camps. The first camp says, "Drop the Bomb." The second camp says, "Withdraw and let the Commies have it." The third camp (and it's here we find President Nixon and most of us John Q. Publics) says, "We don't know what to do." Actually it's like having a bull by the tail. If we don't turn loose we get dragged to death. If we do we get gored. Our mistake was ever getting in the pasture to start with; yet someone had to defend the helpless ones.

A famous American humorist once said, "There are two classes of people. Those who think they know everything and those who say there are two classes of people." But what do you do when you don't know the answers?

During the last presidential election a cartoonist pictured the three candidates trying to cross a yard laid solid with eggs. Humphrey was pictured in ballet slippers daintily skipping across the tops of the eggs trying not to break any. Wallace was in combat boots, stomping through the eggs. And Nixon was pictured riding the shoulders of Agnew, smiling and waving to the voters while Spiro got egg all over himself.

Now we're soon to be faced with another presidential election and once again the war is the big issue. But whom do you believe? When Wallace speaks in Alabama he's not only a hawk, he's the white southern equivalent of the "noisome pestilence." But when he campaigns in Vermont he sings a different tune. Muskie is being billed as another Abraham Lincoln, but after you've found out that he refuses to let reporters ask him questions unless he's picked out the questions first, you wonder. Nixon has done remarkably well for the first term, but on the other hand there's still those high salaried henchmen of his at the peace table, acting like characters out of a Walt Kelley comic strip.

I'd really like to nominate Paul Harvey but since my vice-presidential candidate, Al Capp, has just been arrested (on a charge which, he has it, was trumped up by the communists and hippies) that leaves only Charlie Brown for Veep, and he's henpecked.

I do know this, if we don't get some leadership in high places who will start every day and every conference with an humble cry for God's wisdom, who will unashamedly lead the way by calling the people of this nation back to God, who will refuse to act until they have heard the voice of God and, once having heard it, lead out like Moses even if the people rebel and the problems stretch before them like the Red Sea—if we don't get some men like this in office, then we're a doomed people.

And that's both the good and the bad news for today!