

THE MORNING CALL

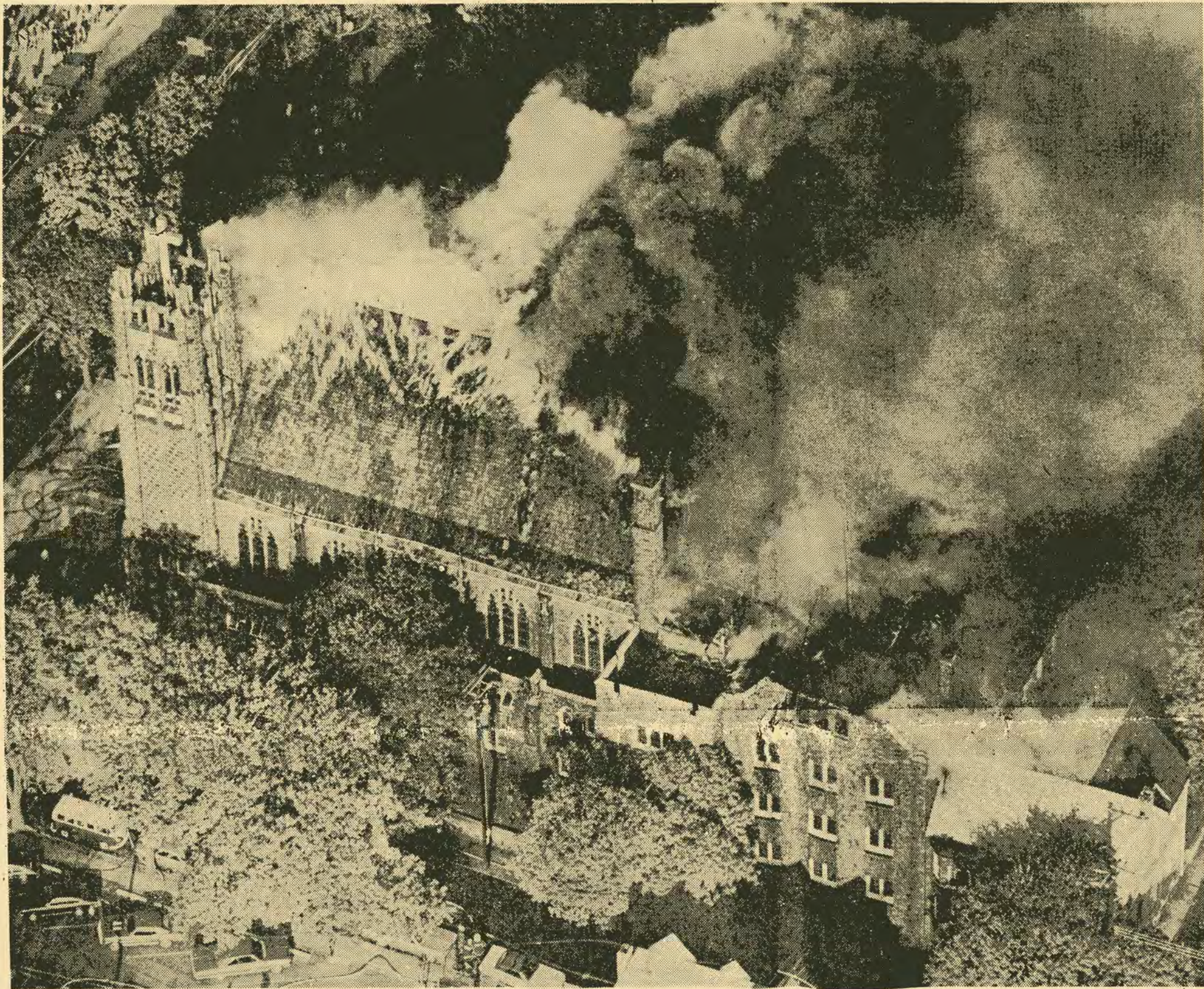
Lehigh Valley's Greatest Newspaper

NO. 26,676

ALLENTOWN, PA., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1972

Ten Cents

\$1-Million Fire Guts Allentown Church



Flames boil through slate roof of Asbury United Methodist Church—the external proof of the raging blaze inside.

Electrical Fault
In Prize Organ
May Be Cause

By AL HASBROUCK
The golden-anniversary joys of an Allentown Methodist congregation collapsed in flames yesterday afternoon as a merciless, fast-moving fire gutted its church.

begin today, Thompson added. Last night, Asbury trustees voted to rebuild the church. They also voted to accept the offer of a neighbor, Christ Lutheran Church at 13th and Hamilton streets, to hold services there temporarily. Some 80 firemen using seven pumpers and two ladder trucks fought the three-alarm fire on the western edge of the downtown business district. They were able to save a former parsonage, now used for offices and classrooms, at the south end of the fortress-like grey-granite church. The fire was discovered about 2:20 p.m. by George Schneeberger, church sexton, and L. Roy

Related Stories, Photos
On Pages 5, 8

control for more than 3 1/2 hours. Jefferson is between 12th and 13th streets.

Officials of the congregation, in the midst of its 50th anniversary celebration, set the loss at \$1 million or more.

Ironically, both the origin of the fire and its severity seem to be connected with the pride of the congregation; a five-manual Gross-Miles pipe organ with an estimated worth of \$250,000.

The massive instrument, installed 10 years ago, had been developed into a showcase piece by its Princeton, N.J., manufacturer who used it for sales demonstrations.

Fire Chief William F. Thompson said a preliminary inquiry into the cause points to an electrical malfunction in the organ's blower unit, a mechanism that provides a bellows-like action to operate the elaborate system of 4,554 tone-producing pipes.

Thompson said the organ ductwork also may have provided a passage for the fire to leap from the basement, where it began, to an inaccessible chamber between a false ceiling and the slate roof of the church.

It was in that four-to six-foot chamber that the main body of the fire burned out of control. A detailed investigation will

Continued on Page 19, Column 1



Arrow pinpoints Asbury Methodist Church.

Inside The Call

- The Candidates Speak Pages 5, 6, 7
- Special Edition News Today Pages 5, 38, 39
- Nixon Drive Finance Groups Report Spending \$22 Million, Twice McGovern Outlay Page 9
- High Court to Hear Air Force Captain's Plea Against Discharge for Pregnancy Page 13
- 11 L.V. Area Representatives Voted Against Changes in No-Fault Compromise Page 17

The Weather

Mostly Sunny Today, Fair Tomorrow; For Details See Page 5

Table with 4 columns: Bridge, Classified, Comics, Deaths, Editorial, Family, Financial, Kilpatrick, Lawrence, Porter, 21-23, 64-65, 18, 18, 25, Reston, Sports, Television, Theaters, TV Keynotes.

Second Class Postage Paid at Allentown, Pa. 18105

Schweiker Gets Caught In Own Trap

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., sponsor of legislation to require electronic screening of all airline passengers as a hijacking preventive, failed his own test Tuesday at International Airport.

Schweiker, who didn't identify himself to the airline agent, triggered an alarm on the electronic device and was removed from line while waiting to board a flight for Pittsburgh.

Airline officials searched his briefcase, found no weapons, and permitted him to board.

The senator later conducted his own search and found what he suspects set off the alarm—a metal shaving mirror. He praised the airline for security precautions and he said he will buy a new mirror, this time made of glass.

Claims Hanoi Begs for Cease-Fire

Thieu Calls for All-Indochina Truce

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu said Tuesday night that Hanoi has requested a cease-fire and one could come soon, but he stood firm on his demand that any truce must cover all Indochina and be internationally guaranteed.

Thieu also rejected a tripartite coalition government for South Vietnam, as proposed by the Communists. He said his country's political future could be negotiated only between Saigon and the Communist-led National Liberation Front, known as the Viet Cong, based on free elections.

"There may be a cease-fire in the near future because the Communists have requested it," he told his countrymen in a broadcast. "They agree to it, and even beg for it, because they are weak militarily."

He said the Communists had implored the United States for a cease-fire agreement in order to keep territory they have recently captured.

Thieu asserted the North Vietnamese want the cease-fire ahead of the Nov. 7 presidential election because President Nixon might be tougher to deal with if re-elected.

His two-hour national radio and television speech shed some light on his five days of intensive talks with Henry A. Kissinger.

It coincided with the disclosure that the United States had cut back on its bombing of North Vietnam in what sources called "a sign of good will." Thieu, who has steadfastly opposed a bombing reduction, did not comment on this.

Worth Repeating

Language is the armory of the human mind. —Samuel Taylor Coleridge

He said his talks with Kissinger had been exploratory and that no formal agreements had been reached. At another point he called them "very clear and useful discussions."

In Washington, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler claimed "some progress has been made at achieving a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam conflict." He spoke after Kissinger had briefed Nixon on the meetings with Thieu.

Thieu's speech, typically not announced in advance, was essentially a reiteration of his long-standing positions on a cease-fire and political solution, and contained these major points:

—The Communist peace proposals are "dark schemes aimed at taking over Vietnam."

—The 1954 Geneva accords, which provided for international supervision of the truce, should be used by both sides as the basis for an agreement.

—Any cease-fire acceptable to Saigon must encompass all Indochina, including Cambodia and Laos, and must be guaranteed internationally. The North Vietnamese must pull all troops and equipment back to North Vietnam.

—A tripartite government consisting of Saigon, the Viet Cong and a third neutral element is unacceptable.

—How can we accept such disguised coalition government after fighting for decades?" he demanded.

He said a political solution, based on free elections, can be worked out only by the South Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong. An unofficial translation said Thieu "rejects the existence of any 'third segment' demanded by the Communists."

—South Vietnam will not be forced into any agreement which it does not want. "No one has the right to sign any agreement, any cease-fire pact or peace pact for the South Vietnamese. Only the South Vietnamese can do it for themselves."

While the latter point was seen by some as a slap at the United States, Thieu emphasized that the North Vietnamese were trying to pressure the Americans rather than that the Americans were pressuring him.

He said a political solution, based on free elections, can be worked out only by the South Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong. An unofficial translation said Thieu "rejects the existence of any 'third segment' demanded by the Communists."

—South Vietnam will not be forced into any agreement which it does not want. "No one has the right to sign any agreement, any cease-fire pact or peace pact for the South Vietnamese. Only the South Vietnamese can do it for themselves."

While the latter point was seen by some as a slap at the United States, Thieu emphasized that the North Vietnamese were trying to pressure the Americans rather than that the Americans were pressuring him.

He said a political solution, based on free elections, can be worked out only by the South Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong. An unofficial translation said Thieu "rejects the existence of any 'third segment' demanded by the Communists."

—South Vietnam will not be forced into any agreement which it does not want. "No one has the right to sign any agreement, any cease-fire pact or peace pact for the South Vietnamese. Only the South Vietnamese can do it for themselves."

While the latter point was seen by some as a slap at the United States, Thieu emphasized that the North Vietnamese were trying to pressure the Americans rather than that the Americans were pressuring him.

He said a political solution, based on free elections, can be worked out only by the South Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong. An unofficial translation said Thieu "rejects the existence of any 'third segment' demanded by the Communists."

—South Vietnam will not be forced into any agreement which it does not want. "No one has the right to sign any agreement, any cease-fire pact or peace pact for the South Vietnamese. Only the South Vietnamese can do it for themselves."

While the latter point was seen by some as a slap at the United States, Thieu emphasized that the North Vietnamese were trying to pressure the Americans rather than that the Americans were pressuring him.



PRESIDENT THIEU



Heart Attack at Age 53 Fatal to Jackie Robinson

(C) N. Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — Jackie Robinson, the black athlete who in 1947 broke baseball's color line against Negro players in the major leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers and won his way into the sport's Hall of Fame, suffered a heart attack early Tuesday at his

Stories, Photos on Pages 53, 59

home in Stamford, Conn. He was pronounced dead at 7:10 a.m. in Stamford Hospital. He was 53 years old.

Robinson had recovered from a 1968 heart attack but had lost the sight of one eye completely and partially in the other as a result of diabetes. He had nevertheless continued active in the fight against drug addiction, from which his elder son Jack Roosevelt Robinson Jr. had been recovering prior to his 1971 death in an automobile accident.

He had planned to attend a drug symposium Tuesday sponsored by the Washington metropolitan business community.

JACKIE ROBINSON

3 of 4 Carriers Sail South

U.S. Curtails Bombing of N. Vietnam

SAIGON (AP) — The United States has quietly curtailed its bombing of North Vietnam at this crucial stage of the peace talks, informed sources said Tuesday.

Informants confirmed that American jets have been flying half their usual number of strikes over North Vietnam and avoiding targets around Hanoi and Haiphong on orders from President Nixon.

The U.S. Navy acknowledged, without elaboration, that three of its four carriers have steamed south from the Gulf of Tonkin and now are stationed off the coast of South Vietnam. It marked the first time since April that only one 7th Fleet carrier has been off the coast of North Vietnam.

Normally three carriers operate against North Vietnam and one in South Vietnamese waters. For the past two days, American tactical fighter-bombers have averaged 130 strikes a day over the North compared to a previous daily average of 250-300 strikes.

Most of the latest missions are flown below the 20th Parallel in North Vietnam 80 miles south of Hanoi, similar to President Lyndon B. Johnson's partial bombing halt of 1968.

Informants conceded that American bombing of North Vietnam usually is affected by monsoon rains at this time of the year, but they said the weather was not severe enough to warrant a 50 per cent curtailment.

In Washington, the Pentagon declined to comment on the report that raids on North Vietnam had been curtailed.

However, high-level sources in the Defense Department substantiated the reports, saying that there have been few if any American air strikes above the 20th Parallel since Monday evening, Washington time. These sources also said, "There has been some movement of carriers" but would not go into specifics.

There has been no bombing cutback in South Vietnam. Military sources said B52 Stratofortresses are flying saturation strikes to break the Communist command's hold on certain areas before a possible cease-fire.

More than 10 of the eight-jet bombers flew 36 missions over enemy-held terrain in the South on Tuesday, the largest number of raids in South Vietnam for any one day of the war. The previous high was 35 strikes on July 28.

The air action coincided with field reports of a stepped-up Viet Cong propaganda effort, countered by an intensified government campaign aimed at showing widespread public support for President Nguyen Van Thieu's opposition to Communist peace proposals.

A document captured in Binh Dinh Province ordered Viet Cong cadre to "prepare for a critical period of transition and make your presence highly visible."