

University Asian Expert Doubts Viet Nam Unification

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Harvard University Asian expert has expressed strong doubt that China would ever permit any unification of the two sectors of Viet Nam to serve as a buffer state in Southeast Asia.

Professor John K. Fairbank told the U.S. Senate foreign relations committee that a unified Viet Nam "would be a fine thing if you could get it."

Communists cannot afford to let us into North Viet Nam without a fight, and we cannot afford to let the Communist Chinese into the South where they would threaten the power balance in all of Southeast Asia.

Fairbank, director of Harvard's East Asian Research Centre, under questioning by Senator Wayne Morse (Dem. Ore), foresaw a military stalemate. Morse tried to pin down Fairbank on his statement that the

Viet Nam war is basically a civil war.

"It's a mixture of people fighting in the country which has become a focus of international power politics," Fairbank replied.

Morse asked whether, if the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam brought on war with China, it would be necessary to be there for a long time.

Fairbank: "Yes, but I don't personally believe our military want to fight a land war in China."

other countries are letting us to it."

In a prepared statement, Fairbank proposed that the United States continue its policy of "firmness backed by force" while opening the door for China's "participation in the world scene."

Fairbank said that the alternative to war with China over Viet Nam, or elsewhere, depends on development of two lines:

1. Achieving a better balance between construction and destruction in American efforts in Viet Nam "so that the non-Communist model of nation-building there can compete more effectively with the Chinese Communist model of nation-building."

2. The de-fusing or dampening of Peking's militancy "by getting China into greater contact with the outside world, more connected with the international scene, and more interested in participating in it like other countries."

Auto Critic Investigated

DETROIT (AP)—Auto critic Ralph Nader has been investigated by General Motors Corporation to determine his qualifications with respect to his attacks of the safety of the Corvair automobile, GM officials say.

However, GM denied any connection with alleged harassment or intimidation of Nader, a Connecticut lawyer and author.

GM's statement Wednesday followed a Senate speech Tuesday by Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Dem. Conn.).

Ribicoff, chairman of a subcommittee investigating the government's part in traffic safety, said press reports indicated Nader had been subjected to harassing telephone calls and investigation by private detectives since his appearance as a witness before the committee.

by lawyers handling damage cases involving the Corvair. GM said it sought to determine whether Nader was acting in behalf of litigants.

Interest Rate Increased By Banks In U.S.

NEW YORK (AP)—Major U.S. banks have increased their minimum lending rate to 5½ per cent from five per cent.

followed by Bankers Trust Company of New York and Mellon National Bank and Trust Company of Pittsburgh.

The stock market started losing ground immediately after the announcements.

The most recent previous increase in the prime rate to five per cent from 4½ per cent came Dec. 6, a day after the federal reserve board increased to 4½ per cent from four per cent its discount rate—the fee

federal reserve banks charge for loans to member commercial banks.

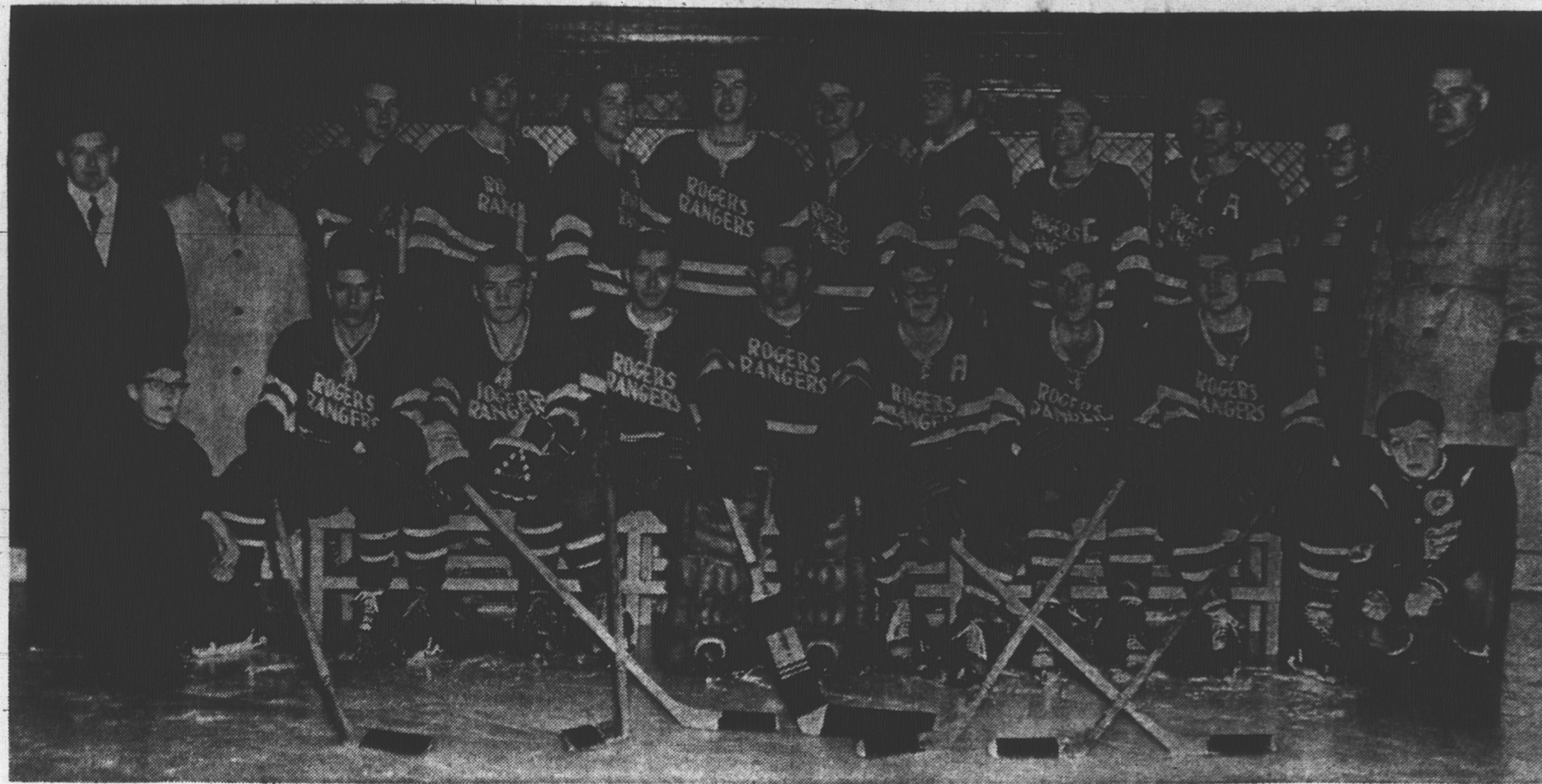
The U.S. treasury declined to comment on the increase. Last fall Treasury Secretary Henry H. Fowler argued against bank interest rate increases. But officials haven't taken any such stand since the federal reserve board raised the discount rate.

45 DROWN IN FLOODS
AMMAN (AP)—At least 45 persons have perished in floods caused by torrential rains in south Jordan, Interior Minister Abdulwahhab Majali announced Friday. At Ma'an, capital city of the region 100 miles south of Amman, houses were swept away and hundreds of persons made homeless.

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