

GI's Home Bombed Eve of Departure For Vietnam

CHICAGO--(NPI)--When it comes to postponing travel to Viet Nam to fight for democracy, Pfc Howard Holmes, 18, had a reason that puts anti-draft, and conscientious objectors' excuses in the shade.

The day before he was scheduled to leave, the home of his parents, located in an all-white block on the West side, was bombed. And his family had only occupied the home since Oct. 15.

The explosion, caused by sticks of dynamite, shattered the windows of the two-story frame building and knocked plaster from the walls. Two of Holmes' sisters, Linda, 10, and Carolyn, 5, suffered minor injuries from flying glass. They were the only casualties in the Holmes' family. Four next door neighbors also sustained injuries as a result.

The soldier's father, James Holmes, 46, is a 14-year employee of the Printing Ink Department, Interchemical Corporation. He and his wife are parents of eight children, three of whom have served in the armed forces overseas.

Though Howard delayed reporting for overseas duty, he is still going to keep his commitment---but he "just can't understand it. I'm going away to war, and something like this happens to my home," he declared.

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SHORTAGE OF NEGRO DOCTORS SERIOUS

WASHINGTON--(NPI)--Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) has warned of a shortage in the number of Negro doctors. Some 28,000 more Negro doctors are needed in order to give Negroes the same medical care whites get, he said.

The Congressman noted that there are only about 6,000 Negro physicians in the entire country. Only 1.3 per cent of significant professional and managerial positions in the federal government are held by Negroes, he charged.

Congressman Conyers said Negro Americans are dropping behind whites economically both in menial and professional jobs. "Growing unemployment (among Negroes) while the overall economy continues to make record-breaking gains helps to explain the increasing unrest and despair among Negro Americans living in the ghettos of our large cities," he said. "For many years, the ratio between non-white and white employment has consistently been two to one during both good and bad times. But last spring the difference rose to almost 2-1/2 to 1," he explained.

Statistics show, the Congressman said, that the number of new unskilled and service jobs gained by Negroes has dropped sharply while white Americans have continued to gain their usual number of such jobs. Of particular concern is the very sharp increase to nearly 30 per cent among Negro teenagers, he said.

Meanwhile, a gloomy picture of job discrimination and joblessness, resulting sometimes in starvation, was painted by the Community Council of Atlanta. The council found "a high rate of malnutrition (including just plain starvation) in a study of the Summerhill-Mechanicsville area.

Jobs are low-paid or non-existent. Most women who work are domestic servants for \$7 a day. Others work in laundries for \$32.50 for a 48-hour week, or cleaning motels for \$30 a week.

A more hopeful note was sounded in Washington, where President Johnson called on members of the predominantly Negro National Bar Association to recruit Negro law students for possible federal service.

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DRAFT OUT OF LINE

PITTSBURGH--(NPI)--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has charged that the draft is unfair to Negroes and that a "disproportionate number of Negroes" were serving in Viet Nam. About two-fifths of all the GIs in Viet Nam are Negroes, while only one out of 10 Americans is a Negro, he said. Dr. King said it was unfair that Negroes were drafted because they did not have enough education to gain an exemption or could not afford to attend college.

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