

Dead U.S. Secretary Took 'Fascinating Job'

DENVER (UPI)—An attractive Denver secretary considered it a "fascinating job in a fascinating part of the world" until a terrorist bomb killed her in Saigon, South Viet Nam, 1961.

The secretary was 21-year-old Barbara Robbins. She was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

Miss Robbins was one of two Americans killed when a giant



BARBARA ROBBINS

bomb exploded in the street near the embassy.

Miss Robbins attended South Denver High School and Thon-Jones Jefferson High School from which she was graduated in 1961.

She attended Colorado State University at Fort Collins for two years and joined the State Department in July, 1963. She was sent to Saigon in August, 1964.

Burford M. Robbins of Denver said his daughter enjoyed her job.

"At the end of her two years as a secretary, she was given the opportunity to apply with the State Department," Robbins said.

"She requested a overseas duty. I don't know if she had requested a particular area. She said very little about the situation. She said that she liked her job. She said it was a fascinating job in a fascinating part of the world."

Robbins is employed as a meat cutter by King Soopers in Denver. He and his wife Ruth have another child, a son, Warren, 18, who is a vocational student at Denver's Opportunity School.

Miss Robbins was born in Vermillion, Md.

Administration Drives For Urban Department

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Administration supporters opened their congressional campaign today for a cabinet-level department of housing and urban development.

Sen. Joseph S. Clark, D-Pa., said one of two proposals before Congress to create the department by elevating the present Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA) to cabinet status, was scheduled to testify as the Senate Government Operations Committee held open hearings on the plan.

Clark said in a prepared statement that rural areas are represented in the HHFA, the Agriculture and Interior department, but that the 150 million residents of urban areas have no such voice in the President's advisory body.

The senator, a former mayor of Philadelphia, said that the proposal would not create a "huge bureaucracy" and that

all its programs would be subject to congressional approval.

The other proposal to set up the department was introduced by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, D-Conn. The Senate killed a similar move to upgrade the HHFA during the Kennedy administration.

Other congressional news: Voting Rights: Senate GOP Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Ill., said he will support the administration's legislation to ensure Negro voting rights. He said he will meet with Atty. Gen. Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach to discuss changes to produce a bill which "will stand up."

Banks: Senate investigation called Don C. Silverthorn, former president of the defunct San Francisco National Bank, as they resumed hearings into a rash of recent bank failures. They also planned to begin testimony on the closing of the First National Bank of Marin, Calif. Aid: Andrew J. Biemler, director of the AFL-CIO's legislative department, told the House that the United States should spend twice as much on foreign aid as the \$3.4 billion being requested by the Johnson administration. The committee is considering Johnson's aid proposals.

GOP Raps Medicare Proposal

WASHINGTON (UPI)—GOP members of the House Ways and Means Committee charged today that President Johnson's medical care program could cripple the Social Security system by loading it with a staggering debt.

They also claimed the insurance program was inadequate because it did not cover all prescribed drugs or provide for financing long illnesses.

The legislation, approved by the committee last week, proposes a compulsory hospital insurance program under Social Security for persons 65 or over. This would be financed by raising payroll taxes.

It also included an optional insurance plan, which could be purchased for \$13 a month, to

cover doctor bills for the elderly. The government would match this contribution.

The eight Republicans who voted against the program in committee aimed their biggest blasts at the Social Security, financed portion of the program.

They claimed that a GOP alternative proposal—a voluntary plan to provide hospital and medical insurance for the elderly—would do a better job at less cost.

Their minority report said the plan would impose on today's workers a \$38 billion liability for hospitalization benefits for persons now over 65.

"This shifting of \$38 billion liability from those presently retired to the active work force cannot be reconciled on the basis of 'ability to pay,'" the GOP report said.

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