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## Thr fitiland 橡purter-Uplegram

## Midland Fire Claims Two Victims

## Truman Asks End OfDraftMarch3

Volunteer §ystem Will Be Tried Out For Trial Period


Holy Land Death Toll Reaches 22 As Curfew Violator Is Shol

UN Committee
Probes Complaint On Mine Sowing

Humble And Texas U. S. Tax Refunds

Thurman H. Adams Dies In City

THE REPORTER-TELEGRAM $\frac{2-\text { THE REPORTER-TELEGRAM, MIDLAND, TEXAS, MARCH } 3,194}{112 \text { West Missouri }: \text { : Midland, Texas }}$



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| :--- | Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor,

and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it
ignorantly in unbelief.-I Timothy $-: 13$. Lells Be Frank About It The alarmed opponents of a big cut in national de-
fense appropriations have been using polite and general
terms. They have said that a drastic reduction would
weaken our delegates position at the coming Moscow
conference, that we would lose prestige before the world,
that we would not be able to fulfill our international com-
mitments, and so on.
All this isn't the whole truth. A little more frank-
ness would be helpful. For it might keep this country
from repeating the costly mistake of what Senator Van-
denberg calls "disarming alone".
Why do we need a military budget of $\$ 11,000,000$,-
000 We have no aggressive intentions. We don't fear attack from Britain or France or Mexico. We are not
going to fight Germany or Japan again. Why, then, this
enormous sum?
Everyone knows the answer, of course. But nobody in official circles will come out and say it. The President and Navy because, with good reason, this government is
distrustful of the Soviet government's intentions. has a large force of men under arms. It has appropriated The British government takes a realistic view of the
situation. With a military budget vastly larger than ours situation. With a military budget vastly larger than ours
in proportion to wealth and population, it has geared up
and integrated a research, development and industria program, especially as regards aircraft and air weapons.
Meanwhile there is real danger that America's military machine may be allowed to grow weak to the point of
falling a part.
We are embarrassed and depressed to see the world, three major powers preparing for war while they talk of
peace. So our military departments speak of military needs and preparations in deceptively unmilitary terms.
But there is danger of being Iulled into a false feeling of security by refusing to call a spade a spade. And there
is reason to suspect that our Army and Navy officials may
have stated their private as they have in public. At least the champions
of a big defense-budget cut are not of the be-soft-with-
Russia group in Congress. Generally speaking, they are Russia group in Congress. Generally speaking, they are
those who have expressed some of the most hostile sus
picions of the Soviet Possibly another contributing factor in this urge to pare the defense fund is a fear that the military depart
ments will squander their appropriations. This is not
baseless fear. If it exists it would be well for Congress to state it frankly.
But, above all, the inescapable fact should be faced Until the Russian government gives genuine and con
sistent assurance of a desire for peace-not one set of
views from Stalin, another from his UN delegates, and views from Stalin, another from his UN delegates, and
third from his government press-we cannot afford t
disarm. Among the strange things in this life are bald bar Merchants say perfumed articles sell better than
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