

PARIS

Thurs, Jan. 16 - '69 ✓

Breakthrough in Paris, maybe of a sort. As you may have heard by now - the month-long "battle of the table" was finally resolved today. The U.S. South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong -- all agreeing to one big conference table; flanked by two rectangular working tables - one for each side.

As such - the table formula giving the Viet Cong just what they wanted - parity with Saigon. At the same time - preserving the U.S. "our side your side" concept. Thereby saving face all around. But were there other reasons for all the stalling? He may have been convinced Time was on their side - because of the help he and his people have been getting from non-war groups in this country.

At any rate now - the real job begins, or so is the hope; with expanded peace talks - set to start

Saturday morning. The first meeting - expected to formalize procedures for the whole rest of the parley.

As once again - in the words of an American diplomat - the show is "back on the road."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW PARIS

Here at home - reaction to the Paris agreement -

one of thankfulness tempered ~~only~~ by caution. President

Johnson noting the fighting will go on ^{and therefore} - we must remain

steady. Nevertheless ^{he seemed} _λ visably pleased at the Paris news,

~~Asserting~~ we are now - "a step nearer toward peace."

KEY BISCAIYNE FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

At Key Biscayne Florida - Richard Nixon

discussing similar sentiments. "I am pleased that new talks can now begin" - said he. Adding: "My administration will pursue these talks - with energy and purpose."

Washington again - Capitol Hill - it was tough sledding today for three Nixon cabinet appointees.

Governor Hickel of Alaska, Secretary of Interior-designate - getting another going over from the Senate Interior Committee. While Senator Gore of the Finance Committee - was challenging the credentials of Treasury Secretary designate David Kennedy.

^ Gore calling Kennedy - "an estimable gentleman of ability and integrity." Adding, however, that his bank holdings - create "a clear cut conflict of interest." Gore also threatened to challenge Deputy Defense Secretary-designate David Packard - same grounds.

Reverse side - four Nixon appointees cleared without contest today. Governor Romney - for Secretary of Housing and Urban ~~Development~~ Development; Governor Volpe - Transportation; Clifford Hardin - Agriculture; Maurice Stans - Commerce.

SENATE FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

Later, the full Senate - taking up this year's attempt to cripple the filibuster; ~~Taking it up~~ - and dropping it flat, as usual. By a vote of 53 to 45 - the Senate rejecting a ruling by Vice President Hubert Humphrey; one that would have shut off debate - on the latest anti-filibuster motion. End result - ~~the~~^{to} filibuster, ~~it~~_^ stays.

Among the leaders of the anti-anti-filibuster movement - minority leader Everett Dirksen who argued that supporters of Richard Nixon might need the filibuster to defend him against the Democratic majority in Congress.

SPACE

For Russia - another breakthrough today in the black void of space. With Soyuz-Four and Soyuz-Five - coming together and docking in earth orbit. Before they separated again - two Soviet Cosmonauts transferring from one ship to the other. Both feats - historic firsts in space flights. The Kremlin also calling the link-up between the two craft - "the world's first experimental space station."

CAPE KENNEDY FOLLOW SPACE

The Soviet space effort and accompanying ballyhoo - obviously an attempt to win back the spotlight from America's moon girdling Apollo 8. Indeed, U. S. space experts calling the Russian maneuver - interesting and significant; but neither surprising nor sensational - since U. S. Spacemen have had the same capability for years now.

Meanwhile, America's three Apollo 10 astronauts - were putting their command ship through final test^S today at Cape Kennedy; ~~Simulating~~ their expected flight to ~~through~~ the moon this spring - a flight that will serve as the final dress rehearsal for a planned manned lunar landing in July.

MELBOURNE

The year - nineteen forty-two. Larry Martin of Clarkson, Washington - ^a young G I stationed in Australia; courting and later proposing to Betty Thompson - a young girl from Melbourne. Except that Betty - at seventeen - felt she was too young to marry.

As it turned out though - Larry was a tough man to discourage. And after twenty-seven years - some five thousand letters - and a recent hour long trans - Pacific phone call via satellite - Betty has finally said "yes." The wedding - is set for Saturday in Melbourne. Writing a fairy tale ending ^{Warren} to one of the longest long distance love affairs in history; as Larry Martin and Betty Thompson begin at last - to live "happily ever after."

MADISON

From Madison, Wisconsin comes a sad story - of sports show stuntman Bob Waind. His specialty - a "death plunge," ~~calling for~~ a free fall from the rafters of a building to the floor below - to be broken at the last second by mountain climbing ropes. Only this time - chaos

In climbing up - he caught his costume on a nail; and presto! - his pants fell to his ankles. In trying to retrieve his pants - and his dignity - he then lost a glove. Finally deciding to continue his stunt - pants down - one glove and all. Whereupon he suffered a bad rope burn on the way down - lost his grip on a guy line - swung madly around the arena - and might be swinging yet except for a head to head collision with a spectator about ten rows up.

When it was all over - stuntman Bob Waind proving his courage had not waned. Said he: "It ~~was~~ just

~~wasn't my~~ ~~one of those~~ day!." To all of you - I hope this has been your day - and s-l-u-t-m.