

Wednesday, June 6, 1973

**WHITE HOUSE**

*Another high level shuffle at the White House bringing with it the return of one of the most trusted figures from President Nixon's first term in office. Former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - becoming the new Chief Domestic Affairs Advisor. This at the urging of both President Nixon and Vice President Agnew. The two finally succeeded in over-coming Laird's insistence - that he had no intention of returning to government.*

*Mel Laird explaining his change of heart to newsmen, saying: "Government is at a standstill in some quarters - and this cannot be allowed to continue." Adding: "That is why I reluctantly agreed - to come back and serve the President."*

*So, Laird succeeds John Erlichman who resigned - of course, in connection with Watergate. Of all this Melvin Laird saying: "I have great confidence in the President -*

*and I have been assured of his non-involvement."*

*Equally important perhaps - Laird's appointment drawing speedy approval from Congress. Senator Gurney of Florida - for one, saying: "Here for the first time" in the field of domestic affairs - "is someone well known and widely liked." Quite a compliment.*

*The White House also announced that the President's acting Chief of Staff - is resigning his army commission. General Alexander Haig to become a civilian assistant to the President with the same title - now given to former Press Secretary Ron Ziegler. The White House adding that Ziegler will take on additional duties including presumably those of departing communications director Herb Klein*

## **WATERGATE**

*As for the Watergate hearings - on and on they go.*

*The former Treasurer of the Committee to re-elect the President holding center stage today. Hugh Sloan Jr. Telling essentially the same story he had already told in previous proceedings; how he dispersed nearly two hundred thousand dollars - to convicted Watergate Conspirator G. Gordon Liddy. Sloan saying he finally decided to resign his committee post - when he was told he might find it necessary to perjure himself or take the Fifth Amendment.*



KLEIN

Elsewhere in Washington - Herb Klein

was discussing ~~today~~ - his decision to resign his job as the Nixon Administration's communications ~~is~~ director. "I wouldn't leave" said he - "if I thought I was helping to sink the ship." But, "the ship is well afloat and moving forward" - he continued. Adding: "I have no doubt the President will ~~emerge~~ emerge from this strongly - his credibility will rise."

Herb Klein then went on to observe that President Nixon - probably should have held more press conferences and he also noted - with regard to White House comment on the Watergate case - "it's ~~obvious~~ obvious some mistakes' have been made." But these he insisted - were merely "honest mistakes." And not an attempt to deceive."



## SAXBE FOLLOW KLEIN

*The President was also strongly defended today - by Senator Saxbe of Ohio - who called the Senate Watergate hearings "a Roman holiday" - with their main purpose - said he - apparently that of "bringing the President into this thing."*

*Saxbe adding that he would stoutly oppose any attempt to compel the President to testify. "To bring the President of the United States before this kind of kangaroo court - said he - "would be the worst thing that could happen to this country." Saxbe declaring that "indeed, the Watergate hearings - should be stopped right now; so the President and the Congress can ~~ex~~ get on with the job of running the country."*

**UNITED NATIONS**

*At the U.N. a special meeting of the Security Council to review the mid-East situation. This coming on the sixth anniversary of the six day war. First - Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Hassan El Zayyat called for the UN action to force the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territory. Said he, all "I wish to win for my country - is the battle against despair."*

*Israeli Ambassador Tekoah called for the start of "an honorable, meaningful dialogue" with no pre-conditions*

**LONDON**

*For a change, a three dollar decrease today in the price of gold; now at a hundred and twenty-six bucks an ounce. So quoted on the London bullion market. The U.S. dollar - also firming up a bit. At the same time, Treasury Secretary George Shultz - at a meeting of International Bankers in Paris was saying that recent devaluations of the dollar - have placed it in a "fair and sustainable alignment" with other currencies. Adding: "The success of our free economy will determine the value of our currency - and that is a test we are glad to meet."*



**PARIS**

*Paris again - Henry Kissinger met ~~for~~ for  
five and a half hours today - with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.  
The two discussing ways and means - of shoring up  
the present Vietnam cease-fire agreement.*

*When the session was finally ended - smiles  
and handshakes all ~~the~~ around but no word ~~of~~ as to  
any progress. A North Vietnamese spokesman saying  
only "we have gone over all the clauses - of the  
accord."*

## STOCKHOLM

A proposal that was first put ~~for~~ forward more than twenty years ago - was finally approved today by the Swedish Riksdag - ~~or Parliament~~; and so - the end of an era.

The new law stripping the Swedish monarchy - of its last remaining powers. Providing that future kings - will not preside at cabinet meetings - will not be the supreme commanders of the Swedish armed forces, will not pick the new Premiers in times of government crisis.

All of this - to take effect with the passing of King Gustaf the Sixth - who is now age ninety; <sup>This</sup> ~~which~~ means that his heir apparent - twenty-six year old Crown Prince Carl Gustaf will be <sup>virtually</sup> ~~completely~~ powerless; in effect - a King <sup>merely with</sup> ~~without~~ a throne. Wonder if this will terminate the Bernadotte Dynasty - which of course began with one of Napoleon's Marshalls?

## PAHUTE MESA

At Pahute Mesa, Nevada - a nuclear blast today about ~~two~~ two thirds of a mile deep; with an explosive force - ~~says~~ said to range anywhere from ~~two~~ two hundred kilotons to one megaton; ~~but~~ enough ~~anyway~~ to sway tall buildings in Las Vegas, more than a hundred miles away.

This the sixth in a series of announced under ground tests - since the start of the year. Spotter planes later reporting - there were no radiation leaks. In the words of the Atomic Energy Commission -  
"a successful test."

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## EARTH ORBIT

High above the earth - the men of Sky

<sup>busy today</sup>  
Lab One were rehearsing ~~today~~ the risky space walk  
they <sup>plan to do</sup> ~~hope to complete~~ tomorrow; <sup>They were</sup> ~~to be doing~~ compressing  
into one day of hard work & a practice schedule that  
would normally take weeks here on earth. Their task,  
~~as you know - that of~~ <sup>now to</sup> repairing the sky lab's jammed  
solar power wing. Along the way - mission Commander  
Pete Conrad ~~was~~ saying: "I guess we'll know better when  
we see it - but our initial impression is that we've  
got a fifty-fifty chance of pulling it off."

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## NEWS FOLLOW EARTH ORBIT

Earlier - a question ~~could~~ addressed to

Mission Control. Paul Weitz demanding to know:

"What's going on down there?" Adding: "We'd kinda

like to hear some news." Whereupon a reply - coming

from capsule communicator Robert Crippen. "We tried

that for a while" - said he - "but the news has been

so bad so boring. About the only thing going on -

is Watergate, and you guys."

Weitz responding - "well, keep us posted -

on how we're doing - will you?"