

CAPITOL HILL

Mon. Jan. 15-67

On Capitol Hill - opening gavel today for the second session - ninetieth Congress. If you blinked - you might have missed it.

The Senate - in session less than an hour.

The House - only slightly more than an hour. With the

major -- emphasis <sup>today on</sup> ~~on~~ ceremonial duties, ~~including~~

~~the appointment of committees - to inform the President~~

~~that Congress has reconvened. Still to come - expected endless wrangles over Vietnam, over taxes, over the plight of our cities.~~

~~Meanwhile - several thousand women ~~xi~~ anti-war protestors - were descending today on the nation's capital. These members of the "Jeanette Rankin Brigade" - named after the first woman member of Congress. Indeed, eighty-seven year old Miss Rankin - herself in the forefront of the demonstration. The so-called "Dowager Queen of the peaceniks" -- a woman who voted against American entry into both World Wars -- remember?~~

# SUPREME COURT

That long-pending merger between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central - approved at last today by the U S Supreme Court. ~~It~~ Clearing the right of way for a tandem operation -- to become the largest private rail system in the world. With more than twenty thousand miles of track -- ~~blanketing~~ the country from Canada to Virginia - from the Mississippi to the East Coast.

~~Today's ruling further providing; one - that the~~  
*Also, the* ~~hard pressed~~ New Haven Railroad <sup>*to be*</sup> ~~will become a part~~  
of the new Penn-Central ~~operation~~; also - that three  
smaller eastern railroads will be merged with the Norfolk  
and Western - to ensure adequate competition.

## VIENTIANE

War news from southeast Asia - marked tonight by what seems to be a major escalation of the fighting in Laos. Reports from the Royal Lao government in Vientiane - telling of North Vietnamese air strikes for the first time against Laotian ground targets. Also - a major Communist ground attack - against the Laotian fortress at Nam Buc.

Reason - we hear - to force a re-deployment of allied strength. The North Vietnamese apparently hoping to ease Allied pressure - on their vital Ho Chi Minh supply trail -- through Laos - to South Vietnam.

As for continued fighting in Vietnam - an American truck convoy today turning the tables on Viet Cong ambushers near Dak To. ~~With~~ With a U.S. counterattack killing twenty-four - the Americans losing none. A second similar ambush that also backfired - on the Bong Son plain. In this one - South Vietnamese troopers supported by U.S. air strikes -- killing ~~xxx~~

VIENTIANE - 2

*seventy-six of the enemy; as against losses of their own -  
called "very light."*

PALERMO (new)

On the island of Sicily, near Palermo - a series of catastrophic earthquakes today, ~~Levelling~~ scores of villages - causing widespread panic and confusion. First reports indicating perhaps as many as five hundred dead - thousands injured - and tens of thousands more left homeless.

Unaccustomed snow and freezing temperatures - said to be adding to the calamity of half-crazed survivors. Most of them <sup>are</sup> camped in the open tonight - against the threat of possible new tremors. The smell of burning sulphur - seeping through yawning chasms in the earth; lending an end-of-the-world ~~xxxxxx~~ quality to the current struggle for existence on that volcanic isle.

Mother nature also on a rampage <sup>today</sup> ~~etc~~.....  
↓

PALERMO

Latest temperature report from sunny Sicily - a bone-chilling thirty-two degrees - right at the freezing mark. Be that as it may - hundreds of thousands of residents of Palermo and nearby towns are camping out tonight. In the wake of a series of violent earthquakes - spreading death and destruction across the countryside.

First reports indicating perhaps hundreds dead - maybe thousands injured. The smell of burning sulphur seeping through yawning chasms in the earth - adding an end-of-the-world quality to current life on that volcanic ~~isle.~~

~~Mother nature also on a rampage today -~~  
~~else~~ elsewhere - in Europe and the Middle East. With hurricane winds ~~smashing~~ <sup>in</sup> Scotland; - snow in Cyprus for the first time ~~in~~ in eighteen years - plus a combination of snow and sand storms in the Holy Land ~~just~~ <sup>within</sup> a few miles ~~apart.~~ <sup>of each other,</sup>

## PARIS

*Paris - a supersonic setback today. France and Britain today postponing indefinitely - the scheduled first flight of the world's first supersonic jetliner - the Concorde.*

*Reason - not given. However, the French built the ~~airframe~~ airframe, -- designed to accommodate British engines; ~~and~~ with rumors persisting in Europe - that Britain is now threatening to withdraw from the joint venture, as a result of continuing friction - between the two nations.*

## VATICAN

*For only the second time in Vatican history -  
an American prelate was appointed today to the Roman  
Curia - highest authority in the Catholic Church. Seventy-  
three year old Francis Cardinal Brennan - the much-  
respected "quiet American" from Shenandoah, Pennsylvania-  
named head of the Congregation of Sacraments, Replacing  
newly-resigned Benedetto Cardinal Aloisi Massella -  
age eighty-eight.*

*Barring the unforeseen - ~~to~~ Cardinal Brennan  
thus expected to become the first American churchman -  
actually to serve on the Roman Curia. ~~Samuel~~ Cardinal  
Stritch of Chicago <sup>was</sup> ~~having been~~ named to the church body  
back in Nineteen Fifty-Eight, only to die - before he could  
take up his post.*



## WASHINGTON

This next - about a weekend story -- carried far and wide by radio, television and newspapers. You may have heard it - a supposed bulletin from the Federal Housing Administration, warning female employees ~~that~~ they run the risk of getting fat legs - from wearing mini-skirts in cold ~~and~~ weather. As the bulletin explained it: "The bodily response to cold is a quick build-up of successive layers of fatty molecules - under the skin areas of the thighs, knees, calves and ~~ankles~~ ankles of female legs."

Turns out now - it was all a <sup>hoax.</sup> ~~put on~~ Press officers of the F H A reporting today - they issued no such bulletin. Adding that whoever perpetrated the <sup>thing</sup> ~~hoax~~ "he should be ridden out of town on a rail even if ~~was a really great sense of humor~~" in addition to ~~a~~ does have a ~~sparkling~~ command - of governmental gobblydygook.

Summing up: Mini-skirts - si; fat legs - no.

So -- you ~~and we~~ can all breathe a sigh of relief.

## HAMILTON

From Hamilton, New Zealand, comes the story today - of a remarkable Maori woman; ~~Forty-two~~ <sup>1/2</sup> year old Mrs. Wara Tengu -- who has just given birth to her twenty-first child - a bouncing baby boy. The new mother - ~~again~~ later remarking: "He was supposed to be my last - but I think we'll have another. - we love children."

Mrs. Tengu - still a long way from setting a motherhood record though. That remains the property of Mrs. Fyodor Vassilet - a Russian ~~pk~~ peasant woman who lived about a hundred years ago. During twenty-seven confinements - Madame Vassilet giving birth to sixty-nine children; including sixteen Pairs of twins - seven sets

of triplets - and foursets of quadruplets. Madame Fyodor Vassilet shattered all records. Wonder what happened to Fyodor? Maybe he was shattered too! As for fatherhood - the all-time champ --

Fateh Ali Shah of Persia - a nineteenth century Don Juan.

Admitted father of one-hundred-and-fifty-four sons -- and

five-hundred-and-sixty daughters. ~~What~~ Busy man

<sup>1/2</sup> Fateh Ali Shah! How Warren,

EVANSTON

"Wets" versus "dries" -- the story today from "dry" Evanston, Illinois - National Headquarters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, where W C T U Chairman Mrs. Fred Tooze has launched an all-out drive - to keep ~~the "wets"~~ <sup>those who favor booze</sup> from slipping through a new liquor sale law.

~~Mrs. Tooze~~ <sup>She</sup> ~~warns~~ <sup>s</sup> that if the "wets" have their way -- "sections of Evanston will become ~~bum~~ <sup>booze</sup>-ridden slums - with bums all over the place - ~~and~~ <sup>— says Mrs. Tooze, with</sup> skid rows ~~with~~ <sup>rampant</sup>; women and children - won't be safe in the streets; and people crazed by drink <sup>of Evanston</sup> will stumble around and make this nice residential city <sup>a</sup> mess."

As you may have guessed -- Mrs. Tooze just doesn't like ~~it~~ <sup>— you know</sup> that wet stuff.