

Wednesday, March 14, 1973

CRIME

*President Nixon today sent to Congress the sixth installment of his written State of the Union report. This one, dealing with crime in the USA, includes a call for the restoration of the death penalty for aggravated crimes such as murder in the commission of a Federal offense - sky-jacking or kidnaping involving the loss of life - and treason - sabotage or espionage in wartime.*

*The President saying: "I do not contend that the death penalty is a panacea - that will cure crime." But crime is committed by human beings - he continued - adding: "If the incentive not to commit crime is stronger than the incentive to commit it - then logic suggests that crime will be reduced."*

*The President going on to say: "The only question considered germane in a murder case for example - would be whether the defendant knew whether he was pulling the trigger of a gun." (over)*

*The President also calling for harsch mandatory penalties for narcotics traffickers including life imprisonment with no parole for second offenders. "We have regarded drugs as public enemy number one - said the President; for they are "destroying the most precious resource we have - our young people - and breeding lawlessness, violence, and death.*

*At the same time the President says "the wave of serious crime in the U.S. - is being brought under control." "Latest figures from the FBI - said he - "serious crime is increasing at the rate of only one tenth of one percent a year; the lowest recorded rate - since Nineteen-Sixty.*

## HANOI-CLARK

The scene a prisoner of war camp whimsically called "the Hanoi Hilton". North Vietnamese officials slowly painstakingly processing one-hundred-and-eight grim faced men. Grim faced - that is, until they were all set free - whereupon they burst into joyful grins. Their senior officer - indeed, the ranking prisoner held in the North Air Force Colonel John Flynn.

Advancing a bit uncertainly to address uniformed Air Force officer, he said: "Are you my escort officer?" "Not exactly," - was the reply - "but I'm going to get you to that place and get you the hell out of here." So began today - the latest return of American POW's.

Same as before - the freed men flown to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Same as before - a moving welcome. Colonel Flynn - again serving as chief spokesman saying: "We knew about the efforts of millions of Americans in our behalf." said he. "We knew about the bumperstickers

about the silence at football games, about the buttons on lapels - it sustained us - he continued - "and had a tremendous impact on our morale. We never lost faith in our country. The Colonel insisting there at Clark Field: "I've been in better places - but never with better people." "Our men performed magnificently" said he - "they were first class soldiers."

He also paid special tribute to President Nixon - for his "courage and integrity." Colonel Flynn saying of the President: "He must have been faced with many difficult decisions and circumstances - such as the bombing of Hanoi." Adding: "He had our support and prayers - always."



## WOUNDED KNEE

*In the midst of a near blizzard today there was a slight easing of the siege at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Federal agents were permitting the delivery of food, fuel and medicine - to the militant Indians who seized the village more than two weeks ago.*

*This government action followed a resumption of negotiations. A spokesman adding that as long as the talks continue - all necessary supplies will be let in.*

*~~Now~~ Now the latest: A Federal grand jury at Sioux Falls, South Dakota today indicted thirty-one persons in connection with the take-over at Wounded Knee. The charges include burglary, larceny, conspiracy and civil disorder.*

DEAN

*From the Senate Judiciary Committee as you may have heard - an invitation went yesterday to White House aide John Dean to appear and testify in connection with the nomination of L. Patrick Gray to head the FBI; especially with regard to Watergate. From the White House today - a polite "no thanks." This in the form of a letter from Dean - invoking executive privilege. Dean offering to supply "all necessary and relevant information" - but only in written answers to written questions.*

NEW YORK

*The Ladies Home Journal* condemns a new book by Elliott Roosevelt. In it, a glimpse into the personal lives of his parents - Eleanor and FDR; much of which the *Journal* says could have been best left unsaid.

Why did he do it? Because - says Elliott<sup>--</sup>his parents, Eleanor and FDR, as described by historians, seem to him scarcely recognizable." Elliott says such legendary beings, immune to frailty and human passion - are not the father we children loved - nor the mother we respected."

TEL AVIV

*There's an unconfirmed report today that the U.S. has agreed to supply Israel - with an additional forty-eight jets.*

*Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir addressing a B'nai Brith conference in Tel Aviv. Telling about a thousand delegates - mostly Americans - she "hopes" the U.S. will supply the weapons Israel needs. "The best guarantee for peace in this area" said she - "is a strong Israel."*



F A A FOLLOW TEL AVIV

From the Federal Aviation Administration -  
a warning today to all U S airlines flying to Europe;  
a warning that Palestinian terrorists disguised as  
priests or women - may be planning to hi-jack or  
bomb either a U S or Israeli airliner. The F A A  
adding that "that <sup>this</sup> ~~is~~ expected to take place some  
place in Europe." <sup>This</sup> An attempt at retaliation - we are  
told - for the ~~the~~ shooting down of the ~~Libyan~~ Libyan  
aircraft last month over the occupied Sinai.

AMMAN

*At Amman, Jordan - King Hussein today commuted - apparently to life - the death sentences of sixteen convicted Palestinian terrorists. The King saying he was prompted by "sincere and honest appeals" to spare the guerrillas; ~~lives~~ also, "human considerations," as he put it, "that haunted us day and night."*

**STATE**

*On another front - the U.S. ended today its embargo on the sale of military equipment - to both India and Pakistan. The formal announcement coming from the State Department.*

NEW DELHI FOLLOW STATE

Earlier today - at New Delhi - a somewhat different view. Indian foreign minister ~~Swarn~~ Swaran charging that a resumption of arms shipments to Pakistan would "pose a grave threat to India." Secretary Kewal Singh of the Indian Foreign Ministry - also calling in U S Ambassador Daniel Moynihan; *and* expressing "India's concern" - ~~as it turned out,~~ ~~a futile gesture.~~

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## SENATE

*Senator Griffin of Michigan - has been seen hobbling around the Capitol Building the last few days. This a result of a muscle cramp he got while doing his daily setting up exercises. Whereupon Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott suggesting his colleague adopt his own regimen for keeping fit - what's that? Why, proper diet - said Secretary Scott - "and mental gymnastics." When you feel extra energetic, Bill, just stretch out and take a nap!*

## VICTORY

*The White House again. President Nixon meeting with a group of customs agents; men chiefly responsible for the arrest and conviction of the renegade Frenchman, drug king Joseph Auguste Ricord.*

*"The apprehension of this individual," in Paraguay, said the President, meant the "breaking up a heroin ring that brought in nine billion doses of heroin. The President adding: "When I think of what one dose or several can do" - how it can destroy the life of a person - I say - these men have saved many many lives."*