

ERVIN

Wed. Dec. 19-73,

For Sam Ervin - the end of the line. The Senator from North Carolina announcing today - he will not be a candidate for reelection when his present term expires in Nineteen-Seveny-Five.

Senator Ervin giving his age - as the main reason; noting he's now seventy-seven - and would be eighty-four before completing another term. "Since time takes a constantly accelerating toll" - said he - "it is simply not responsible for me to assume that my eye will remain undimmed - and my natural force stay unabated - for so long a time."

— he calls her
Senator Ervin adding that he and his wife, "Miss Margaret" - are planning to spend their retirement years in his native Morganton, North Carolina. "Here" - said he - "we hope to dwell for a time among the people who have known us best and loved us most - and to watch the sun set in indescribable glory." A nice Southern touch to that!

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House - the resignation of Melvin Laird as the President's chief domestic adviser ^{was} accepted today - with "deepest personal regret." Laird ^{however} ~~agreed~~ ^{agreeing} ~~however~~ to stay on till February One - to assist in the preparation of the new State of the Union message and the new budget.

In addition to announcing his resignation - ~~Laird~~ ^{Laird} also called ^{ed} ~~ing~~ for speedy resolution of House impeachment proceedings ^{Said he:} "There is no reason ~~said he~~ why they can't pass judgment in the next sixty days." ~~Laird~~ ^{Laird} saying, for his part, he was quite convinced - "there is not a majority vote for indictment."

FUNDS

~~The White House again~~ - President Nixon today
ordered the release of more than a Billion ~~Bucks~~ in
Federal health and education funds; ~~These earlier~~
impounded by the President ~~in~~ in an effort to hold Federal
spending in check and thus fight inflation. ~~But the~~ ^{Such} President's
action - since contested in the courts. ~~And~~ Today's
decision to release the funds ^{said} - the White House ~~said~~ ^{is}
an attempt to alleviate the present "climate of uncertainty."

ENERGY FOLLOW FUNDS

The President also appeared at a White House news briefing today - to call for an excess profits tax on the nation's big oil companies. This - to guard against "windfall profits." The President saying: "It is unfair of some to profit - as the result of the sacrifice of others."

The President's Cost of Living Council later approving an increase of One Dollar per barrel - in the ceiling price of domestic crude oil. ^{This} An attempt - we are told - to increase petroleum output and stimulate exploration.

WASHINGTON

In a Washington courtroom - a public apology today from Ralph Nader lawyer William Dobrovir, for playing a subpoenaed White House tape - at a Washington cocktail party. Dobrovir saying: "I made a very foolish mistake. - I'm a very embarrassed man."

(Judge William Jones then refusing a government request - for a ban on any additional revelations. "I am quite certain" - said he \neq emphatically - "there will be no other occasion such as this.")

SIRICA FOLLOW WASHINGTON

~~In a related development, Judge John Sirica was~~
~~upholding~~ today ^{upheld} an argument earlier submitted by White
House lawyers. The Judge ruling that three of President
Nixon's Watergate tapes, with the exception of one brief
segment - should be withheld from the Watergate grand
jury. This - on grounds of executive privilege. Judge
Sirica noting that "none of the conversation" in question -
"relates to Watergate or anything connected therewith."

GAO

From the General Accounting Office - which acts as a Congressional watchdog agency - an assessment of the Federal funds spent on President Nixon's private homes. The GAO asserting that some expenditures - were questionable; and perhaps should have been paid - at least, in part - by the President. These including the embellishment of a hedge and fence system at Key Biscayne - also, the installation of a new heating system at San Clemente.

The GAO concluding, however, that most of the Federal expenditures at Key Biscayne and San Clemente - were fully justified. Adding that the great bulk of these expenditures - were solely for the protection of the President.

MADRID

Overseas - in Madrid - Henry Kissinger was winding up ~~today~~ his two-day visit to Iberia. ^{and} After final talks with Generalissimo Franco ~~saying~~ ^{he said} "Spain and the U.S. will begin to draft a declaration of principles - paralleling the efforts that the U.S. has been engaged in with other countries." This an apparent reference to U.S. moves - aimed at shoring up Western defenses.

4
^{See. of State}
~~Dr.~~ Kissinger then leaving for Paris - where he meets tomorrow with Hanoi's ^S Lu^e Duc Tho. Next - Geneva; for the peace conference on the Middle East - starting Friday.

GENEVA FOLLOW MADRID

Meanwhile, in Geneva - the tightest security ever ordered there. The U.N. also bringing in as a special adviser - Briton George Ashman, who once served as a bodyguard to Sir Winston Churchill. ^{This in} An attempt to make sure that what happened in Rome earlier this week - will not happen in Geneva.

DRUGS

Herath On the ~~medical~~ ^{medical} front - an attempt to cut the costs of Federal Medicare and Medicaid. This by means of an order today - from Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Casper Weinberger; an order specifying that the government shall reimburse druggists for prescription drugs, henceforth $\$$ only at the lowest price at which said drugs are available.

The new rule to enable the government to stop paying ~~for~~ ^{expensive} brand name drugs - when identical, unbranded drugs could have been used. The potential saving in government funds - thus coming to more than a Hundred Million-a-year. Observers adding that resulting savings to all drug users - could run eventually ^{to} more than One Billion a year.

BOYLE

W.A. "Tony" Boyle - the former head of the United
Mines Workers - was ordered jailed immediately today for
making illegal campaign contributions. However, the judge
in the case reducing his sentence from five to three years -
because of ill health. ~~You may recall~~ - The seventy-two-
year-old Boyle recently attempt^{ed} suicide. ~~But~~ ^{and} now ^{in a} ~~headed~~
Wash. hospital he's headed
for the Federal prison ~~hospital~~ ~~probably~~ at Springfield,
Missouri.

SENATE

The Senate today passed and sent along to the White House - a Home Rule Bill, at last, for the District of Columbia. The President ^{is} expected to sign it shortly. Residents of the nation's capital will then be free to elect their own city government - for the first time in nearly a century.

In the interest of caution though - a number of strings attached. The Congress and the President retaining control over a few key functions - such as the budget, for instance.

KOTZEBUE

times past,

In ~~the old days~~, or so it's said, when an Eskimo got too old - they just put him on a cake of ice and let him float away. Ah, but times change. And now they're planning a retirement center for aged Eskimos - up at Kotzebue, Alaska. The plans unveiled today by state officials ~~including~~ ^{ed} numerous innovations recommended by the Eskimos themselves.

For example, drying racks for fish - also, moose and caribou meat. A place for ivory carving. And classrooms where the center's residents can teach young native Alaskans - the Eskimo and Aleut languages, legends, music and art. Eskimo spokesman John Schaeffer saying: "In your colleges - you have all your profess^{ors} ~~ors~~ in this college - we'll have all of ours."

Schaeffer adding that the ultimate goal is ~~that of~~ ^{to} making the retirement center - "a home for the living, not the dying."

I wonder what Albro Gregory will have to say about this in his Barter Sea Newspaper, the Nome Nugget. How about Albro?

Bill - How would you like to retire to Kotzebue or Barter Sea? See? Barter Sea part of Albro?

WANAKENA

From the Rockies to the Atlantic, from Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast - the nation was enveloped today in its first major cold wave of the season. Wanakena, New York - reporting a low of thirty-three below. Saranac Lake, New York - thirty-one below. While a raging blizzard ~~was~~ sweeping across ~~parts of~~ Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. The death toll from weather-related causes so far this week - now at least twenty-eight.

The outlook for tonight - more of the same; with heavy snows in the North - and freeze warnings: ~~star~~ ^{right} across the South. And ~~it isn't even winter yet.~~ ^{sp. - 4 -}