

Thursday, March 15, 1973

WHITE HOUSE

*The White House - another surprise press conference - as no doubt you've heard by now. President Nixon announcing first the appointment of veteran diplomat David Bruce - to head the new U.S. Mission in Peking. The President calling Bruce - a man of "great stature, great experience." Just the man - said he - to preside over a new beginning in Sino-American relations.*

*And then - a rapid succession of questions and answers; with Topic A the President's refusal to permit White House aide John Dean - to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The President quickly serving notices that on this one, he's ready to go to the mat.*

*The President noting "some speculation" - as he put it - that FBI Director-designate is being held "hostage" pending Dean's appearance. "I cannot believe that such" is the case - said the President - "Because my decision has been made." The President further observing that Dean - has*

a "double privilege of immunity;" because of his lawyer-client relationship" with the President - and also the separation of powers doctrine under the Constitution. The President adding: "If the Senate wants a court test - we would welcome it."

The President adopted an equally hard line - in discussing alleged Communist violations of the cease-fire in Vietnam. Observing that continued violations - could lead to "serious consequences." "I would only suggest" - the President went on - "that based on my actions over the past four years - the North Vietnamese should not lightly disregard such expressions of concern."

The President also covering a broad range of additional subjects - both foreign and domestic.

On the resumption of arms sales to Pakistan - saying "Indian superiority is so enormous - that the possibility of Pakistan being a threat to India is absurd."

On soaring food prices - saying he would try to improve the situation by encouraging imports and increasing

food supplies. But "the greatest and most powerful weapon against high prices" - said he - "is the American housewife."

On future travel plans - saying he may make two overseas trips this year. Where - he didn't say; except to note that he hoped to shore up relations with long-time allies - in South America, Africa and Japan.



## CLARK

*The last Americans held in Red China - have finally been set free. Navy C<sup>I</sup>ommander Robert Flynn and Air Force Major Philip Smith <sup>wer</sup> - released today at the Hong Kong border; <sup>and</sup> then flown to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines - on the first leg of their long journey home.*

*Both men - downed pilots from the war in Vietnam. Flynn - a prisoner more than five years; Smith - more than seven years. Nevertheless, apparently in good shape - and said to be "mixing well" with other returnees.*

*By the way, their first meal at Clark - a dinner featuring prime ribs of beef, prawns and pizza, as well as huge portions of milk and ice cream. Commander Flynn's capsule comment: "Outstanding."*



## PARIS

*Paris again - the start of a new round of talks - between the U.S. and North Vietnam; talks aimed at determining the extent and direction - of future U.S. aid to North Vietnam. Today's session - lasting an hour-and-a-half; ending with an agreement - to meet again on Monday.*

*Maurice Williams for the U.S. later saying: "The two sides expressed their intention - to carry their work to a successful conclusion." North Vietnam's Dang Vang Chau - said to have appeared similarly optimistic.*

## **NEW DELHI**

*For the second day in a row - our man in New Delhi was summoned today to India's Parliament House. U.S. Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan meeting this time - with India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The latter said to have expressed her "views and concern" - at what she called the U.S. decision "to supply arms to Pakistan."*

*Moynihan, for his part, apparently taking the same stand as that expressed today by President Nixon. An Indian spokesman adding that he also pledged - the U.S., "henceforth, will not supply lethal arms to any country" on the Indian subcontinent.*

## PANAMA CITY

A special meeting of the U.N. Security Council - was convened today in Panama City. Its purpose - ~~that of~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~hearing~~ complaints against continued U.S. control of the Canal Zone; the first of these complaints - coming in a "welcoming" speech from the Panamanian strongman, General Omar Torrijos.

The General addressing his remarks to the Security Council - also, to "the high leaders of the U.S." Going on to say it is "difficult to understand how the U.S. insists on maintaining a colony - in the heart" of another nation. Adding that U.S. domination - "is now taxing the limits of the patience of the Panamanian people."

"We do not want to be an associated state - a colony - or a protectorate" - said General Torrijos; "nor do we want to become another star - on the flag of the U.S."



*Back in Nineteen-Forty-Eight - Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia was officially excommunicated from the world Communist movement. Joseph Stalin charging that the renegade Tito - was "blinded by ambition" and "indulging in Napoleonic dreams."*

*Ah, but time and tides have their effect - even in the Communist world; and a quarter-of-a-century later, the Kremlin today urging the selection of Tito - as the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The Russians asserting that Tito "constantly comes out on the side of peace-loving forces" - in their struggles "for freedom, independence and security."*

## CLEARWATER

*The creator of one of America's best-loved comic strips - has passed away at Clearwater, Florida.*

*Murat B. Young - better known as Chic Young - the man who dreamed up "Blondie" more than forty years ago. He made her a gold-digger, at first. When that didn't work - marrying her off to "Dagwood;" and the rest - is history.*

*"Blondie" becoming not only a famous comic strip - but also a movie series; then shifting to radio - and later TV. Blondie, Dagwood, Mr. Dithers and all the rest - becoming familiar figures to millions right around the globe. At last report, the "Blondie" strip running in more than fifteen hundred newspapers - in sixteen different languages.*

*And now - for Chic Young - the final installment at age seventy-two. But "Blondie" lives on. For the past ten years - <sup>done</sup>~~written~~ by Chic Young's son. The original inspiration for "Baby Dumpling" - remember?*

## MOSCOW

*High praise for world chess champion Bobby Fischer - comes today from Moscow, of all places. This in the form of a commentary in the newspaper Trud - written by former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik, the dean of Soviet chess players.*

*Bobby Fischer's personal behavior is annoying - said Botvinnik; "but his play is worthy of a real chess professional - in the highest meaning of the word." Indeed, "the reigning champion is a virtuoso" - said Botvinnik. Adding that his "main strength rests on rapid and exact calculation of variations - and a phenomenal chess memory."*

*Botvinnik noted, however, that Fischer could well meet his match - in a twenty-one-year-old Russian grandmaster named Anatoly Karpov. It's not so much that Karpov is a better chess player - said Botvinnik - but simply that his nervous system is "much stronger."*



## LOS ANGELES

*The City of Los Angeles is sometimes called - the prototype of the city of tomorrow. Now - a matching police department. The L.A. Police Commission approving unanimously - the establishment of a new "unisex" police force; one that could well serve as a model for the nation - assuming it works, of course.*

*The new plan providing that women policemen - shall meet the same physical requirements as men; meaning at least five-eight in height - a hundred and forty pounds in weight - with strength, speed and agility to match. They will also perform the same duties as men - street patrol, riot duty, the works; and thus qualify for promotion - the same as men.*

*All this - as originally proposed by L.A. Police Chief Edward Davis. An attempt to dodge a charge - that he was discriminating against women; In short, a bluff - that has now been called.*

## **SPOKANE**

*Except for emotional airport scenes - the wives of returning POW's have generally remained in the background. Where once they were forced to carry the whole load - now content to defer to their menfolk.*

*Case in point: Mrs. Joanne Vissotsky of Spokane, Washington - the wife of newly-released Air Force Colonel Raymond Vissotsky. After talking to her husband for the first time by phone - saying she plans to do just what he told her to do; to "play it by ear - and take it as it comes." More than that, Mrs. Vissotsky saying only she was so happy - she could probably "glow in the dark."*