

Tuesday, December 14, 1971

**AZORES**

*From the Azores - an economic bombshell:*

*President Nixon and French President Pompidou - issuing a joint communique at the close of two days of talks. They agree in their own words, "to work toward a prompt realignment of exchange rates - through a devaluation of the dollar and revaluation of some other currencies." Adding that "this realignment - could be accompanied by broader permissible margins of fluctuation." All aimed at achieving a solution to the present world monetary crisis, as the communique says: "At the earliest possible date."*

*The two President's also making brief personal statements - each in his own language. President Nixon saying: "Our talks contributed to good relations between our two countries - and a better understanding between the nations of the world." Further stating - the parley had been "very successful." Pompidou adding - "most constructive," too.*

## REACTION FOLLOW AZORES

Nevertheless, the prospect of America's first dollar devaluation since Nineteen-Thirty-Four <sup>is</sup> causing shock waves right around the globe.

In Switzerland - the major banks ordering an immediate suspension of trading in U.S. dollars. In West Germany - the dollar again dropping sharply. In Britain - the Bank of England stepping in to protect the value of the pound.

But here at home - U.S. business leaders <sup>(generally)</sup> applauding the President's decision. Congressional leaders also indicating - that they <sup>a</sup> were willing, if not eager, to go along. Senator Aiken of Vermont, for one - observing that the President had little choice. "He is doing what he has to do" - said Aiken - "to keep up with the Joneses overseas."

## DACCA

At Dacca in East Pakistan - apparently the beginning  
of the end. ~~With~~ <sup>are reported</sup> Indian troops ~~are~~ <sup>^</sup> - ~~to be~~ <sup>^</sup> "advancing  
from all directions." All-India Radio adding that a part of  
the city's garrison - has already surrendered. And the fall  
of Dacca - according to Indian leaders <sup>is</sup> <sup>^</sup> no longer a question  
of how or where - only when.

And then - what will happen to the war  
1000 miles to the west, the fighting for the far  
famed Vale of Kashmir - one of the most  
spectacular regions in the world.

**TRIP**

***There is a further report that President Nixon might reconsider his scheduled trip to Moscow, in light of Russia's continued support of India versus Pakistan.***

## **INDOCHINA**

*In the ground fighting in Indochina - a massive assault today on the giant Chup rubber plantation in Eastern Cambodia. Some ten thousand Saigon troops were attempting to wipe out a longtime enemy sanctuary. It may not be easy. The Chup plantation covers more than one hundred square miles.*

*In the air war - Cambodian jets apparently scoring a direct hit on an enemy ammunition dump - less than fifteen miles from Phnom Penh. The Communist cache giving off a series of secondary explosions - lasting more than twenty minutes.*

## **VIENNA**

**Today's session of SALT talks at Vienna - the longest ever; for more than three hours. And, they meet again tomorrow. A conference source explaining: "They are working hard - trying to reach an agreement."**

**We hear the talks may continue - right through the holidays; in the quest for "peace on earth - goodwill to men."**

*The Azores again - President Nixon today inspected France's new Concorde supersonic airliner - just before flying home. The President's tour guide - French aerospace official Henri Ziegler; who pointed out the plane's attributes - and also gave the President a map showing how the Concorde's speed is drawing continents closer together. Whereupon the President said with a smile: "You make me sadder every minute." This, of course - because we have none. The President later telling his host: "You can be very proud."*

*When it was all over though - the President turning to reporters - saying: "I have one quote for you - we will build it one day; we'll start late - but we'll catch up." So said the President.*

## PENTAGON

When David Packard was appointed Deputy Secretary of Defense three years ago - he agreed to place his major stock holdings in a so-called "blind trust." Now that <sup>has</sup> he ~~has~~ resigned <sup>its</sup> <sub>^</sub> time to remove the blindfold.

In a statement issued today at the Pentagon <sup>Mr.</sup> <sub>-A</sub> Packard ~~setting~~ his untouched profits at about Twenty-Three Million. All of which - he has agreed to give to charity. But the list of recipients - still a secret. This - said Packard - in order "to afford each recipient - the opportunity to make an announcement themselves whenever they might wish to do so."

David Packard - successful industrialist - hard-working government servant; and now the best title of all - philanthropist.



# SCOTT SOUTH POLE STATION

Today's date - December Fourteenth - the sixtieth anniversary of Amundsen's <sup>winning, in the race to be</sup> ~~successful~~ ~~trip~~ ~~across~~ ~~Antarctica~~;

~~when he became~~ the first ~~man~~ ~~ever~~ to reach the South Pole.

On hand for this is Capt <sup>U.S. Navy retired.</sup> Finne Ronne, ~~is currently~~

He's at the Amundsen - ~~visiting the~~ Scott South Pole Station, tonight.

Finne's father, <sup>was</sup> ~~you see~~ one of the seventeen ~~men~~

who sailed with Amundsen; Lieutenant Martin Ronne - a

Norwegian naval officer; who, ~~was forced to stay~~ <sup>ed</sup> with ~~his~~ <sup>the</sup> ship,

- ~~and was, therefore, unable to take part in~~ <sup>not on</sup> the overland -

<sup>over-ice</sup> journey. But he was a part of the team - and Finne Ronne

recalls how proud he was ~~that day~~, at age eleven, when ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> news was ~~reached~~ reached Norway that Amundsen finally made it.

In the years since - Finne <sup>Ronne has made</sup> ~~making~~ nine trips of his own to ~~visit~~ Antarctica - <sup>and</sup> ~~also~~, becoming a U.S. Navy

captain. But his greatest pride - he insists - is still his father and the part he played in Amundsen's Polar conquest.

Finne Ronne saying: "It was the equivalent of man - landing on the moon."

NEW YORK

Here in New York - ~~an address by~~ Vice President

Spiro Agnew <sup>says:-</sup> ~~who said~~ "We hear much ~~today~~ about what  
is called a 'crisis of confidence' in America - a spirit of  
despair - a feeling of hopelessness about the future." But all  
this - "grossly exaggerated" - <sup>continued</sup> ~~said~~ the vice President.

Adding that "it stems directly - from the rhetoric of  
Utopian leftists"; those - said he - "who despair at how far  
we fall short of the ideal" - instead rejoicing at "how close  
we have come to achieving it." ~~That - from Spiro Agnew.~~

**LIST FOLLOW AGNEW**

Today here in N.Y.

~~Incidentally, the Vice President~~ <sup>Agnew</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>ed</sup> disclosing -

his Nineteen-Seventy-One Christmas gift list. He said he's

<sup>send to</sup> planning to George Meany - an introductory lesson at the

Ebenezer Scrooge School of Charm; to Martha Mitchell - a

brand-new princess phone; to Attorney General John Mitchell

- a brand-new padlocked princess phone; to President Nixon -

a complete history of China; to Mao Tse-Tung - a complete

history of the National Football League; and to U.N.

<sup>Warren, so he can</sup> Ambassador George Bush, ~~in order to~~ entertain "all our

friends at the U.N." - a two-place dinner setting.

## **PRAGUE**

**At Prague, Czechoslovakia - a special preview at  
a new Soviet science and technology exhibit; with a group of  
visiting diplomats - checking out the various displays.  
These including a pane of glass - said to be "unbreakable."  
And to prove it - Soviet officials supplying a hammer; urging  
the diplomats - to "go on and hit it."**

**Unfortunately - one did. Just a slight tap - and  
the glass went crash. For the Comrade who dreamed it up -  
no doubt, a pane truly painful.**