

*At the Western White House - San Clemente -*

*President Nixon today authorized the development - of a new space shuttle system. This, estimated cost - about five and a half billion, to serve as our chief link-up with future orbiting space laboratories. And not so far in the future at that. The President saying it should be operational - within six years.*

*U.S. space chief Dr. James Fletcher was present for today's announcement when they displayed the model of a proposed space shuttle vehicle - the model consisting of a booster - plus an orbiter. Dr. Fletcher saying the new craft will take off like a rocket, fly like a space ship, and land like an airplane. The President further noting it will thus serve as the world's first reuseable space vehicle; thereby, as he put it, "taking the astronomical costs - out of astronautics."*

*And so - hopefully - the start of another leap forward - another milestone in the conquest of space.*

## CAPE KENNEDY

*At Cape Kennedy, \* in that Apollo Sixteen moon ship, scheduled for take off March seventeenth, space experts today turned up what they called a "technical problem." Which may mean a month's delay.*

## ECONOMY

On the U S economic front - the President's pay board voided nine to five today - against granting a twelve ~~percent~~ percent wage increase in the Aero-space industry. This the first such rejection in the Board's brief history; <sup>and</sup> ~~draw~~ <sub>^</sub> an immediate challenge from its five labor members - all of whom supported the pay boost.

Indeed, U A W President Leonard Woodcock call<sup>s</sup>~~ing~~ the Board's action - a naked power attempt by industry members; supported, "unfortunately" = said he - "by public members" - Woodcock adding that today's action - marked "a tragic day for the system of free collective bargaining."

## INDO CHINA

In the air war in Indo China - an American jet today blasted an enemy missile site in North Vietnam. ~~This~~ The first such attack - since the start of the New Year. ~~Big~~ American B-52s - also ~~were~~ hitting an enemy build-up near Khe Sanh. ~~Reverse~~ ~~side~~ <sup>And -</sup> enemy migs again <sup>were</sup> sweeping the skies - over Laos.

Back on the ground - a series of enemy probing actions; including one apparently aimed at a secret C I A base - at Long Chen in Laos. An American source observing that what with the advent of the dry season - "they're after bigger game now."

## POLITICS

On the U S political trail - a number of Democratic Presidential hopefuls were <sup>in the</sup> running hot and heavy today. Chief of these - Senator Muskie of Maine - who formally announced his candidacy ~~only~~ last night. The Senator now setting forth - a new four point ~~plan~~ campaign platform - including -- number one - a pledge to end the war in Vietnam.

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This drawing a speedy rebuttal from former Senator Eugene McCarthy ; who characterized Muskie as ~~something of~~ a Johnny-come-lately; <sup>and</sup> charging that Muskie had failed to oppose the war - until the Nixon administration was already in office.

Senator Hartke of Indiana - also taking a swipe at his ~~colleague~~ colleague from Maine. Claiming that the money <sup>Muskie</sup> ~~must be~~ spent to announce his candidacy and ~~publish~~ publicize same - could have been put to much better use; such as repaying the residual debts - from the losing Humphrey-Muskie campaign of Sixty-Eight.

**PENSACOLA follow Politics**

Meanwhile, Senator Jackson of Washington, <sup>was</sup> taking up where he left off yesterday. At Pensacola Florida - in so-called "Wallace country" - saying he favors desegregation of schools but opposes massive bussing of students. Jackson <sup>says</sup> ~~saying that~~ he favors federal funding for ~~the~~ poorer school districts - so that all students can receive a quality education <sup>both</sup> black and white.

## ACCRA

*Today's stop for First Lady Pat Nixon - the city of Accra, capital of Ghana; where she was met by a cheering crowd, and by Ghana's Premier Kofi Busia. Mrs. Nixon was taken to famous Christiansborg Castle - in preparation for a tour of the land of the Ashanti Tribesmen. This the second stage of her week long tour of three West African nations: Next a visit to Abidjan on the Ivory Coast.*

*When reporters asking Mrs. Nixon how she felt about her husband running for a second term, she said she thinks he has a good chance of winning, if that's what he wants. Then ~~she said~~ - a moment's reflection - and she added: "I'd like to see him have another go!"*

**BELFAST**

*The first man to die this year in the continuing violence in Northern Ireland - a young British soldier felled by a sniper's bullet - in the Lower Falls area of Belfast.*

*Also, another brief clash at Carlingford Loch; where British troops exchanged automatic fire with I R A terrorists - across a lake on the border. North and South.*

## MARNES-LA COQUETTE

In a tiny white stone church at Marnes La Coquette - France -- the last rites today for Maurice Chevalier. Those admitted - in addition to relatives - including <sup>ed</sup>~~ing~~ just a few close aides, former co-workers, and long-time ~~since~~ friends, among them Princess Grace of Monaco -- the former Grace Kelly. ~~And~~ Then, <sup>the</sup> ~~his~~ casket <sup>was</sup> borne to a nearby hilltop cemetery - where he was buried alongside his mother. All ~~just~~ as he had wanted it - simple, quiet, discreet.

It was impossible though - to obliterate completely the famed entertainers seventy-years in show business. ~~Indeed,~~ nearly a thousand mourners braving a cold fog - ~~driving all the way~~ from Paris - just to be nearby. Also, two truck loads of floral wreaths - mostly from French show business personalities. ~~But~~ one signed simply - <sup>of</sup> The Eiffel Tower which was built the same year Maurice Chevalier was born -

*Eighteen Eighty-Eight and just like him - a worldwide  
symbol of "Gay Paree."*

Maurice Chevalier, <sup>! We all</sup> ~~ah, yes, I~~ remember

him well.

## LONDON

*Across the Channel in London - the death of another well known personality. Sir Gerald Kelly - a former President of Britain's prestigious Royal Academy - age ninety-two. Sir Gerald Kelly - in the beginning - a contemporary and close friend of fellow artists such as Renior, Monet, Cezanne, and Degas. Later he painted the official state portraits - of King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth.*

*Perhaps best known - for his many appearances in recent years on British TV. One of his favorite topics - right up to the end - women. Sir Gerald once saying: "I have no admiration for the scraggly women of today - I like middle-aged women to have a middle-aged spread." He also once summed up his life - saying: "I have consistently eaten too much - drunk too much - broken every law with one eye on the policeman around the corner, and contrary to the best wishes of my friends - I have thriven." Sir Gerald Kelly - quite a man! Bill Martin.*