

Tues., Dec. 17, 1974

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - a new assessment of Arab military strength. Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres - saying the Egyptians are now capable of launching a massive attack across the Suez Canal; could do it - overnight. Also, that Syria has just received from the Soviet Union - more than three hundred new war planes and more than a thousand new tanks.

And, says Jordan's King Hussein: "The indications are that the Israelis either expect, or might be thinking of a starting - a new military operation in the near future." King Hussein adding that "the prospects of war - are very real."

WHITE HOUSE

President Ford today requested a written explanation from U.S. Steel - on why it's raising its prices as much as eleven percent. White House Spokesman Ron Nessen saying the President "is concerned and very disappointed" at the steel price hike; especially so - in that it runs counter to his present anti-inflation campaign.

The President also accepted with deepest regret the resignation of Budget Director Roy Ash; whose successor is expected to be Housing and Urban Development Secretary James Lynn.

In a Christmas message President Ford tells us that as we endeavor to solve our many problems let us also count our blessings - and work together to ensure that the good we have achieved - will be preserved for our children and future generations."

CAPITOL HILL

~~On Capitol Hill - a sudden attack of adjournment~~

~~see fever~~ The House today completing passage of two bills ^{to} providing ~~ing~~ additional ~~to~~ veterans benefits.

~~White House and Senate~~ ^{are also} ~~confering~~ hammering out a compromise foreign aid bill, ^{as well as} ~~also~~ a bill to provide jobs and special jobless benefits ~~for the nation's~~ growing army of unemployed.

UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Security Council today voted unanimously to condemn South Africa - for continuing to occupy South-West Africa. The Security Council saying if it does not withdraw from the former German territory the U.N. will take "appropriate measures."

KATMANDU

Today in Nepal - the fourteenth anniversary of a royal takeover - by the late King Mahendra; also, the occasion of a pledge from Mahendra's son, King Birendra - that he plans to set up a new royal commission to recommending "appropriate constitutional reforms." This means, we are told, ~~that~~ a return to some form of Parliamentary democracy for Nepal - in response to growing unrest.

WATERGATE

Former Nixon campaign lawyer Robert Mardian - today completed his testimony in the Watergate ~~case~~ trial. Mardian admitting at one point he had withheld certain information from fellow defendant Kenneth Parkinson. Denying, however, any criminal wrong doing. Adding that he still believes to this day there was no ~~Watergate~~ watergate culpability - either by the Nixon campaign ~~committee~~ committee or its then chairman, John Mitchell.

MAUNA LOA

The sleeping volcano on the main
Giant Mauna Loa ~~mountain on the big~~ island

of Hawaii, was shaken today by ~~hundreds~~ hundreds of

~~earth~~ tremors. Scientists saying ~~the~~ ^{lofty} Mauna Loa

~~volcano~~ may be getting ready to erupt ~~again~~ again

after slumbering peacefully for ~~nearly~~ a quarter of

a century. ^{And} ~~A spokesman adding~~ that this poses "a greater

hazard than the recent Kilauea eruptions because

nobody knows "what paths ~~the~~ lava would take."

NEW YORK

From the First National City Bank in New York:

another inflation study. Soaring prices are now said to be causing havoc - even in the upper income brackets, of those making from Twenty-to-Fifty Thousand a year, a third saying they have been forced to cut back on travel and vacation plans; more than a third - cancelling purchase of new cars; and nearly two-thirds - saying they've ^{even} been forced to change their eating habits.

TULSA

The divorce rate in Tulsa, Oklahoma we are told is double the national average. And one of the main reasons - says Tulsa Divorce Court Judge Ed Glass - the fact that Tulsa is such a success-oriented city. The Judge explaining that as men and women go up the economic scale it not only alters their lifestyle but it even changes their personalities." ~~Says~~ Says the Tulsa judge "success is a hard thing to handle" - in a marriage or anywhere else.

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TEDDY

Still the nation's most popular Christmas toy, believe it or not - the venerable Teddy Bear with sales this year - expected to run about forty million.

The Teddy Bear, named after President Teddy Roosevelt is not only a favorite of children and grownups here, but also right around the globe. The King of Thailand - refusing to ~~no~~ travel without his Teddy. The Prince of Wales - taking his to boarding school. Says the National Geographic: The reason for all this was once explained by a psychiatrist who said: "Teddies are father figures - to children, they represent goodness, ~~beneficial~~ benevolence, kindness." So here's to the Teddy Bear.

A famed mountain climber - took his up ~~to~~ the Matterhorn. And there was even an ~~actor~~ actress - who insisted that her Teddy be given the seat of honor at her wedding.