

Mon. Dec. 8-69

VIETNAM

1/2  
President Nixon tonight will hold his first formal news conference in two-and-a-half months - at nine o'clock Eastern Time - over nationwide radio and television. News Secretary Ronald Ziegler says the President does <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ plan to announce another American troop withdrawal from Vietnam - and <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ probably <sup>answer</sup> ~~open himself to~~ questions <sup>right from</sup> ~~at~~ the start - rather than <sup>any formal</sup> make statements or announcements.

Senate Leaders, however, say the Nixon Administration is quietly withdrawing troops from Vietnam - in even greater numbers than previously announced. In fact, Republican Senator George Aiken of Vermont says a total of sixty-nine thousand men already have been withdrawn - which would put the program nine thousand men ahead of schedule. And in Paris, Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird hinted that President Nixon would announce a further reduction of forty thousand troops before the year's end.

(MORE)

Even as American troop strength dropped to its lowest level in two years, a full division of North Vietnamese regulars is reported moving into the Mekong Delta. To reach the Delta, the enemy troops would only have to cross a narrow bridge of Cambodian territory known as the "Parrot's Beak."

In London, Prime Minister Harold Wilson told a stormy session of Parliament - if charges of massacres by American troops in Vietnam are proven true, the British government would condemn the actions. Even so, Wilson added, Britain would continue to support American policy in Vietnam - and this brought angry shouts of protest from left-wing labor members <sup>of</sup> ~~in the~~ Parliament.

PANTHERS

48

Eleven Black Panthers - holed up in their fortress-like headquarters in Los Angeles - used hand grenades and automatic rifles today in a pitched battle with three hundred policemen. The siege continued for five hours before the Panthers finally surrendered. The Panthers - wearing gas masks and bullet-proof vests - wounded three police officers during the battle. Five of the Panthers were treated for injuries - before being booked on conspiracy charges.

SIRHAN

The condemned assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy - Sirhan B. Sirhan - is on a hunger strike in San Quentin's death row - in protest, he says, against the strict security arrangements along his cell block. Prison officials say Sirhan stopped eating nearly two weeks ago - and has subsisted on instant cocoa and coffee ever since. He has been in prison more than six months. No date has been set for his execution, pending review and appeal procedures.



CRASH

A Greek Olympic airliner with ninety-one aboard -  
crashed while attempting to land in a rainstorm at  
Athens, Government spokesman say there were NO survivors.  
It was the worst crash in Greek aviation history. The  
four-engine, propeller-driven plane on a flight to Athens  
from Crete - struck a hill about twenty-five miles south of  
the airport. Heavy rains and low visibility hampered police  
and firemen who tried to reach the scene. An Onassis  
Olympic airliner.

## NIGERIA

Emperor<sup>r</sup> Haile Selassie of Ethiopia<sup>ix</sup> reported ~~very~~ hopeful ~~tonight~~ that sometime next week he can bring about a meeting of both sides in the Nigerian civil war. However, African diplomats in London say they<sup>a</sup> are still not too sure Biafra would attend such a meeting ~~since~~ since its delegates would insist on being recognized as representatives of a sovereign, independent state...something Nigeria would refuse to concede.

## INDIANS

The Indian invasion of Alcatraz Island - ~~of the~~ <sup>in San</sup>  
~~California Coast~~ <sup>Francisco Bay -</sup> - still growing, with more than four  
hundred Indians now occupying ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> former site of ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> federal  
prison, known as "The Rock." Leader of the takeover is  
Richard Oakes, a twenty-seven-year-old Mohawk - who vows  
they will remain until the Federal government cedes the  
island to them - which they claim ~~is their right~~ <sup>is</sup> under a  
century-old treaty. Encouraged by reports of Congressional  
~~support for their cause, the Indians are working to improve~~  
~~the island's facilities - with the view of eventually~~  
~~establishing an Indian cultural center there.~~



## CAMEL

A fifty year old employee of the Budapest Zoo was killed today when ■■ he was bitten by - an enraged camel. This happened while several zoo employees were walking three camels through the snow-covered streets to the Budapest railway station. One camel didn't like walking in the snow - his keeper struck him with a stick. Moments later, when another keeper dropped his stick, the camel leaned down and bit him through the neck.

As all who have been around camels know they are that way. Whoever heard of a friendly camel? They are always snarling and grumbling - and biting too.



CHECKUP

5/2  
The Indiana University professor who invented the breath-analyzer predicts that one day - in the future - bars and cocktail lounges will be equipped with his machine - so ~~any~~ people can test themselves to see if they're too drunk to drive. Doctor Robert Borkestein says his invention could also be rented to persons who give parties - to test ~~and~~ their guests before they leave. At present, only the police have such use of Doctor Borkestein's invention.

Some day why they may even have them in our radio and TV studios. I had a friend years ago who did the narration to a newsreel sixteen times. They never used any of them.

11/4  
In all of them, Warren, <sup>it sounded</sup> as though he was stoned - ~~and~~ he was.

SANTA

A winter storm left deep snows across the northern sections of the nation today - nineteen inches at Duluth, Minnesota, and an even foot at Baldwin, Wisconsin. ~~FREEZE~~ Freezing rain, snow and sleet fell across the northeastern states - and the bad weather grounded New England's flying Santa Claus - whose name just happens to be Edward Snow. Mr. Snow is an author and local historian at Norwood, Massachusetts, who likes to live up to his name. So Edward Snow each December makes flying trips to remote lighthouses and coast guard stations, dropping packages to the men and their families at those lonely, lonely places. Snow says he'll now begin his tour on Tuesday, weather permitting. Can't you just hear the lighthouse keeper's daughter saying -- Oh Dear, <sup>Papa</sup> here comes Snow!