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Aug. 14, 1972 Monday

VIE TNAM

Former Attorney General Ramsay Clark - speaking to reporters in San Francisco after returning from a trip to Hanoi - quotes a North Vietnamese newspaper editor as saying - "if there is a change of administration in the United States", all American prisoners-of-war could be released the day the new president takes office. Clark also quotes North Vietnam's foreign minister as "guaranteeing" in writing the P-O-W release in a settlement of the war. No word on Hanoi's conditions for settlement. Clark also says that he, personally, urged the North Vietnamese to set free some American prisoners immediately - and Clark adds - "I think they will release a few - but they tell you they can't let pilots go while pilots are bombing their country."

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman disputed another Clark statement - that American prisoners are being treated humanely - but refused to comment on Clark's

claim to have a written statement guaranteeing a release of the prisoners on settlement of the war.

Also, the White House announced that presidential adviser Henry Kissinger is in Paris, holding a private meeting with the two top North Vietnamese peace negotiators - though the Hanoi delegation in Paris refused to confirm this. Instead, a Viet Cong spokesman accused the Nixon Administration of spreading false optimism about ending the war.

And in Wall Street, optimism over the reports of peace talks and the state of the economy, sent prices upwards - lifting the Dow Jones average to one of its highest levels in four years.

POLITICS

Verbal crossfire continued today between Republicans and Democrats over Sargent Shriver's claim that President Nixon "blew" a chance to settle the Vietnam War three years ago. Secretary of State Rogers - testifying before the G-O-P platform committee in Miami Beach - said that if Shriver is correct, then it was the Democrats, NOT the Republicans, who ~~let~~ let the opportunity to end the war slip past. He said that Shriver, then ambassador to France, had failed to inform the Nixon Administration of this alleged peace opportunity. And that a search of State Department records ~~shows~~ renders Shriver's charges "an Alice in Wonderland fantasy &" But Shriver, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate - denies that he withheld any information while he was ambassador to France.

CRASH

An Ilyushin jetliner crashed south of Berlin

today, killing all one-hundred-fifty-six passengers and crewmembers on board. The Soviet-built plane - from East Germany's Interflug Airline - was on a charter flight to Burgas in Bulgaria.

AUTOS

The auto industry wants to increase prices for the new Nineteen-Seventy-Three models - by an average of about ninety-one dollars per car - but the Price Commission says public hearings will precede any decision on allowing an increase. Even so, it appears likely a price boost will be permitted - if for NO other reason than the extra manufacturing costs involved in the installation of more safety equipment required by the federal government.

POWER PLANT

Harvard University plans to build its own electric power plant - thirty-five stories high at a cost of fifty-MILLION dollars. When completed - perhaps sometime in Nineteen-Seventy-Six - it will be the largest electrical power complex of its kind in the nation - second only to those operated by utility companies. In addition to providing power and air-conditioning for Harvard's Medical School, it will also serve six hospitals in the Boston area.

THOMAS TAPE

Time now to hear from Lowell Thomas in Iceland - a land, he now tells us, is more famous for its chess than its ice. Lowell...

TAPE RUNS: 1:50

OUTCUE: So Long...

About that chess match, Bobby Fischer today rejected as "insufficient" the medical certificate that excused Boris Spassky from playing the fourteenth game of their championship match yesterday. But officials of the match rejected Bobby's rejection. Fischer leads by eight points to five. As it stands now, the match resumes tomorrow.

HATS

In Sydney, Australia, people were holding onto their hats - after they purchased them at an auction. One hat - a slightly soiled white Stetson, worn by Sir Winston Churchill while he painted canvasses on the Riviera - sold for two-hundred-seventy-five dollars. Still another Stetson - worn by the late Dwight D. Eisenhower - brought two-hundred-fifteen - as did a derby that once graced the head of Charlie Chaplin. And a bonnet - worn by an American Sioux Indian - drew a winning bid of one-hundred-thirty.

You might say - they were high hat prices, in the land down under.

Now for Lowell Thomas this is Allen Jackson.

Good Night.