

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House today at a conference on inflation, President Ford attempted to pick the brains-of-twenty-eight of the Nation's foremost economists; trying to find some way - anyway within reason - to stem the surging tide of inflation.

The President setting the stage for today's parley - in brief opening remarks. The American people are "sick and tired of having politics played with their pocketbooks," said he - "they want right answers - not a long list of alternative answers." The President adding that neither the President, no Congress, nor businessmen, nor labor unions - can solve the problem alone. "Separately we can only make it worse- but together we can beat it to its knees."

Views later voiced by the experts, one by one - ran the full gamit of the economic spectrum. The only consensus

WHITE HOUSE - 2

it seems - a general agreement that fears of an imminent depression are "a bit overdone." If nothing else though - the parley did help spark a rally on Wall Street.

CAPITOL HILL

**Meanwhile, a closed caucus of Senate Democrats -
on Capitol Hill; voted to stay in session for the rest of the
year if necessary - to enact legislation to curb inflation
and boost the economy.**

HEALTH

From Casper Weinberger, the Secretary of Health Education and Welfare - a blast at what he called ~~the~~^S "skyrocketing inflation" in health care. Weinberger noting that hospital bills and doctors fees - have been climbing "at an unprecedented rate" since the lifting of Federal controls. The Secretary adding that "this we must - and will moderate"; if not voluntarily - then through "Federal intervention."

FIRST LADY

First Lady Betty Ford's statement yesterday on abortion ^{was} a bit ambiguous; and ^{she} ~~has~~ today - a White House clarification. Mrs. Ford's press secretary Helen McCain Smith - saying the first lady "has spoken out in favor of therapeutic abortion: in cases of rape - and incest". Adding, however, the First Lady is definitely not in favor of abortion on demand.

And ~~this~~ leading to still another clarification - from White House Press Secretary Jerry TerHorst. The president and his wife - sharing the same general beliefs - we are told. But the President ~~has~~ ^{is} said to feel that the matter of abortion - should be left to the states and therefore he supports efforts to obtain a constitutional amendment aimed at nullifying the Supreme Court's recent abortion ruling.

FBI

The FBI is spelling out in greater detail tonight - a trend cited last week by Attorney General William Saxbe. The FBI reporting a sixteen percent increase in the nation's crime rate - during the last quarter of last year; an acceleration said to have continued on apparently - right up to the present. Saxbe calling the new figures "discouraging", to say the ~~least~~ least.

More optimistic than before though - Saxbe now contends that "people are becoming more conscious of crime." ~~that goes~~
And he believes
~~a long way" said he, adding that "the incidents of crime~~
will decline; maybe not in 1974 - but in 1975."

PEKING

An incident said to be highly significant to Veteran China watchers ^{is} reported ~~today~~ from Peking. For the first time in memory, Red China's Premier Chou En Lai - failing to extend a personal welcome to ^a visiting head of state; in this case - General Gnassingbe Eyadema, ~~the~~ President of Togo.

The reason - as yet unclear.. But Chou ^{En Lai,} age 76 - is said to have ~~suffered~~ ^{had} a heart attack, ~~this year - Chou En Lai's~~ ^{and} ~~saying~~ his absence today could signal a new stage in his withdrawal from political leadership.

~~And~~ now the latest: at a banquet tonight in Peking - a sudden interruption. Red China's top political leaders - summoned to a special meeting. ^{Why - we don't know,} ~~About what - well, we'll~~ ~~just have to wait and see.~~

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - Arab Guerrilla forces in Lebanon - were reported today "on the highest State of alert This in fear of possible Israeli retaliation for two Arab border crossings earlier in the week. The Guerrilla's saying they are ready to face "any Israeli attacks - whether on land, from the sea or air."

LONDON

Three alleged Scottish Nationalists were seized in London today in an apparent attempt to steal the fabled Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey.

The Stone of Scone, as you ~~perhaps know~~ ^{may recall} - is the stone on which ancient Celtic Kings were first crowned. But it was captured by Edward the First in the late thirteenth century. He had it brought down from Scotland to serve as Britain's Coronation Stone. And ever since, the Stone ^{has} symbolized ~~the~~ English and Scottish unity or Scottish subjugation, ~~take your pick~~ ^{some say}.

Anyway, today's attempted theft ^{was} - apparently prompted by a recent resurgence ^{of} Scottish Nationalism. ^{Altho'} ~~the~~ the official Scottish Nationalist Party - ^{denying} any part in the would-be crime. Insisting nevertheless: "this was not an attempted theft - but an attempted removal." Adding emphatically: "the stone belongs to Scotland."

SNAKE RIVER CANYON

At the Snake River Canyon in Idaho - the countdown begins. Daredevil motorcyclist Evel Knievel - cranking up for his death-defying leap this Sunday; an event that has already attracted thousands of spectators - among them, celebrities such as Steve McQueen, Ali McGraw and Dustin Hoffman.

The experts still split-on whether he stands a chance to make the jump and live. But Evel himself - as confident as ever, saying: "I'm the best there is - I'm taking a calculated risk. And even if I do fly into the canyon wall
,, then he added:-
- so-what! "I can say the Lord's prayer in ten seconds."

~~so says Evel Knievel.~~

Now this message.

RIVER OF LOVE

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and her husband, Prince Bernhardt, on a visit to Finnish Lapland; went camping today with Finnish President Kekkonen - along the River of Love. The Queen and her consort - mingling happily with the reindeer and other flora and fauna.

Only trouble - it rained as it often does in Lapland. The Royal party getting soaked. ♪ But sixty-five year old queen Juliana refused even an umbrella. "The rain here" said she, in queenly fashion - "is just like back home." Said the Queen - from the River of Love. And this is Lowell Thomas for CBS news...