


Fri. Dec. 27-73.

MIDEAST

1/2
~~Israeli newspapers claim that~~ Fighting along the Suez front since the ceasefire agreement went into effect last October, has been much heavier, and fiercer, than official announcements would indicate. *So we hear from Israeli newspapers,* One report says more than a thousand Egyptian shells were fired against Israeli troops on Tuesday alone.

1
Also, Israeli sources say Egypt's second army is building two earthen causeways across the Suez -- probably to speed the movement of additional armor into the Egyptian bridgehead on the canal's east bank, if large-scale fighting should resume. These reports come while the peace talks in Geneva are in a one-day recess.



add MIDEAST

In Washington, Secretary of State Kissinger told a news conference that he believes there's a "good chance of making progress" at those talks.

IRELAND

"The London Daily Mail" today published a report -- saying that the I-R-A plans to launch an air raid against Belfast. The report follows publication of a German magazine interview which quotes an I-R-A leader as saying -- "we ^{plan} ~~will have~~ commando action from the air." According to the "Daily Mail", security forces in Northern Ireland have been warned to keep their anti-aircraft guns in readiness. British Army spokesmen ^{decline} ~~are refusing~~ to comment on the ^{"Daily} ~~Mail's~~ " story.

NIXON

As you may have heard by now,

~~in an effort~~ to help conserve ~~the nation's~~ gasoline supply,

President Nixon -- paying his own way -- flew to ~~the Western~~

~~White House in~~ San Clemente as a passenger aboard a commercial

airliner -- leaving something of a controversy in the plane's

wake. Hardly had the United Airlines plane become airborne,

before both the Secret Service and the Federal Aviation

Administration sharply criticised the President's mode of travel.

TP Said the Secret Service -- "we would prefer the President to use military aircraft for reasons of security." And F-A-A chief Alexander Butterfield complained that no advance notice was given his agency which, under law, must arrange special air traffic procedures whenever the President is airborne. *TP* ~~The General~~

~~Accounting Office estimates that whenever government planes are~~

~~used by the President in flying to California, more than seventy~~

~~thousand gallons of fuel are consumed on a round trip.~~

ECONOMY

The New York Stock Market advanced again today -- reacting favorably to the news that a stand-by system of gasoline rationing is being established by the government.

The Dow Jones averages were up more than thirteen points at the close.

In Boston the First National Bank cut the interest rate for prime business loans from ten percent to nine and three-fourths. ^{says the bank,}
~~The bank says it's~~ Because of a declining demand for money, ~~in~~
~~recent days.~~

3
The Agriculture Department reports that the annual retail cost of a typical grocery basket ~~of food~~ rose by fourteen dollars during November -- mainly because food industry middlemen ~~sharply~~ ^{were} fattened ^{ing} their profit margins for the third straight month.

~~Also in Washington,~~ the Commerce Department says the balance of trade in the nation's import-export market totalled more than eighty-five million dollars in favor of the United States during November.

COMPUTER

President Nixon has taken a hand in efforts to straighten out a massive computer foulup ^{at} the Southern California Veteran's Administration office in Los Angeles. Some five thousand veterans attending colleges -- have failed to receive their monthly benefit⁴ checks -- with the computers sending checks to the wrong schools -- the wrong students -- out of the state entirely, or sending no checks at all. Some students, reportedly, have had to quit school ~~altogether~~ -- live on food stamps -- or on loans from family and friends. In order to speed payments, the President ordered the Los Angeles V-A staff to work on through New Year's weekend if necessary.

MORMAN

Harold B. Lee -- prophet, seer and revelator of more than three million Mormans ^{who} died unexpectedly last night in Salt Lake City, Death was attributed to heart and lung failure at the age of seventy four. As President of the Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints, he headed the faith just seventeen months -- shortest tenure of any of the eleven Mormon leaders -- first of whom was the founder, Joseph Smith, in eighteen thirty. Under a Mormon tradition dating back more than a century -- ^{will be succeeded by} seventy-eight-year-old Spencer W. Kimball, President of the church's Council of Twelve. ~~will~~ will succeed President Lee.

RELIEF

A University of Pennsylvania economist claims that federal disaster relief is now so easily obtainable, and generous, that some homeowners and businessmen see little advantage in buying insurance. ~~Moreover,~~ Says Professor Howard Kunreuther, some individuals have come out of recent natural disasters in far better financial shape than they were before. One extreme case, cited by the Professor, is ~~that~~ of a motel owner in Alaska whose property suffered one-hundred-forty-thousand dollars damage from a flood. ^{Whereupon} ~~Then,~~ he was able to borrow nearly nine-hundred-thousand dollars from the government at three-percent interest for a thirty year period. And, claims ^{Prof.} Kunreuther, after an earthquake two years ago, many California homeowners asked for -- and received -- federal funds to repair damage that wasn't even caused by the quake. The situation is such, he adds, that many people are deliberately building their homes in trouble-prone areas. As you may or

may not recall our son & family found themselves in a trouble prone area when that Alaskan earthquake sent their home over a cliff. Do we ever know for sure whether we are in an area that is trouble prone?

ENERGY

The government today confirmed reports that it intends to resort to gasoline rationing if and when voluntary measures fail to ease the current fuel crisis. Energy Advisor William Simon revealing at a news conference that he has ordered the printing of ration coupons and stand-by ground rules -- ~~geared to become active~~ ^{to be ready} by March, 1st, if necessary. The system would permit drivers to buy up to thirty-five gallons a month. Under the plan, those not needing or using their allotment could sell their coupons at whatever price they could bring. Simon says one major yardstick for a decision will be the length of carlines, waiting at service stations -- declaring that "three or four hour waits will not be tolerated."

^{All this} ~~Almost immediately, the contingency plans~~ drew strong criticism from Robert Jacobs, of Chicago, an official of the Gasoline Dealers Association, who calls it "absolutely ridiculous" --

^{Said he:-} ~~adding~~ "millions of Americans use twenty-five gallons a week-- not a month -- just to get to work."

In Houston, a gasoline supply firm says it may be forced to cease supplying some three hundred independent service stations

ENERGY 2-2-2-2-2-2-2

in the Northeastern states because of difficulty ~~in~~ acquiring Canadian crude oil.

b/y
The oil shortage is expected to create a boom in the mail order business, says Maxwell Sroge of Chicago -- head of one of the nation's mail order firms. ^{Then he added:-} ~~said he~~ "we expect an increase of about a billion dollars next year -- mainly because more people are buying by mail ^{and} ~~rather than~~ driving their cars ^{less} to shopping centers."

~~From~~ Plandome, Long Island, Joe Viverito commuted to his New York City office ^{he has over a special way} ~~again -- but with a difference~~ ^{he jogs} (the twenty miles to Manhattan!) To save some of that precious gas,

he jogs

Bill, you'll be jogging home - want you?!

SINGER

British vocalist Barbara Windsor was on the stage -- belting out the words and music of "You Made Me Love You" -- when an I-R-A bomb went off just outside London's Victoria Palace Theatre. But, being ^{very British and} ~~one of the~~ unflappable, ~~English,~~ she didn't skip a note when the blast shook the theatre. Later, while receiving congratulations, she said "forget it, -- I was a war baby, you know." ^{Then} ~~None of the~~ she added ~~the bombs were dropping when~~ ~~musical "Carry on London" -- and both the studio and the audience,~~ ~~the studio dropped me. -- S P - Mon.~~ ~~carried on as if nothing had happened.~~