

KUWAIT

Mon. Dec. 24th. '73

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A weekend decision by six Persian Gulf oil states to double their rates - led to shock waves today right around the globe. The Japanese stock market - dropping more than a hundred points in two hours. French economists predicting an ~~increase~~ increase in the price of gasoline ^{up to} two bucks a gallon. And the government ~~of~~ of Venezuela, a major U S supplier - indicating that it, too, may follow the Arab lead.

Meanwhile, at Kuwait - the Persian Gulf Oil ministers were meeting again today ^{in an} attempting to determine how ~~do~~ next to ~~use~~ wield their "oil weapon" -- in the battle against Israel. A spokesman saying the oil states may approve still another price increase - starting this spring.

WHITE HOUSE

After a week end at Camp David President Nixon and the rest of the First Family returned today to the White House. Instead of using helicopters - driving back in order to save ~~the~~ fuel. The President's three car motorcade - completing the ~~the~~ seventy mile trip in about an hour and a half.

One of those awaiting the President's return - Secretary of State Henry Kissinger - just back from Geneva. Dr. Kssinger immediately briefing the President - on the progress so far toward ~~the~~ peace in the Middle East.

Tel Aviv follow White House

~~More on the same - from~~ Israel's Abba Eban;

who is also just back ^{the} from opening round ~~Geneva~~

~~talks.~~ ^{was} ~~Eban~~ telling a French newsman that Egypt

"accomplished an act of courage - in coming to Geneva in the absence of the Syrians." Adding: "they took a difficult decision - which demonstrates their sense of responsibility."

The Israeli Foreign Minister ~~was~~ ^{ed} warning,

~~however~~ against undue optimism, ^{saying} ~~said he~~ "there

is a possibility of getting the separation of forces

negotiations underway within a few days," "But I would

be greatly surprised" he continued - if ^{it} ~~they~~ should ^{all} end

in "speedy success."

DISTRICT

The White House again - President Nixon today signed a bill - giving partial home rule to the District of Columbia. This ~~was~~ a measure "of historic significance" - said the President; one that will give the district its first locally ~~own~~ elected city government - in more than a hundred years. "As the nation approaches its two hundredth anniversary" - ^{added} the President, ~~the President said~~ - "it is particularly appropriate to assure ^{to} those who live in our capital city ^{the} rights and ~~possible~~ privileges which ~~should~~ have long ~~been~~ been enjoyed by most of their countrymen."

NEWRY

At Newry, in Northern Ireland - a pub was invaded today by two I R A terrorists bearing a bomb. The pair ordering everyone to leave - saying: "You have five minutes to run." When suddenly - the bomb went off right in their hands.

~~Twenty~~ The two terrorists - killed instantly. Also, a third man, ^{and} ~~with~~ five ~~of the~~ injured ~~at least~~ ~~report~~ in ~~very~~ serious condition. A policeman ~~was~~ spokesman one of the first on the scene - saying: "It was a terrible sight - arms and legs all over the place."

LONDON FOLLOW NEWRY

Across the Irish Sea - Scotland Yard's entire bomb squad was ~~also~~ placed on ~~maximum~~ maximum alert today. This in ~~anticipation~~ the face of - a threatened I R A Christmas Day bombing spree. Bomb Squad Commander Robert Huntley saying: "People have to be generally vigilant wherever they go this year - even in church."

BETHLEHEM

The Little Town of Bethlehem in Israeli occupied Jordan - legendary birthplace of Jesus Christ - was host today to an estimated five thousand Christian pilgrims; about half the ^{usual} number. - ~~that usually come~~ ^{This surrounded} ~~on Christmas Eve. The reason readily apparent~~ ~~in the presence of~~ ^{by} Israeli troops, in Manger Square - ~~with~~ ^{with} police barricades and stringent security checks. ^{Also} ~~and~~ off in the hills - additional troops ^{on} ~~standing~~ guard - ~~with~~ machine guns at the ready.

Still and all - a joyous ~~and~~ occasion. An Israeli police band - filling the air with Christmas Carols. Two American choirs and two Belgian choirs - singing along with a local Arab Christian group. ~~Indeed, as~~ ^{We hear} ~~estimated~~ ^{the} ninety percent of those attending ^{the} Christmas Eve services [^] were local Arabs dressed in flowing black robes and white head-dresses.

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul ^{celebrates} ~~is marking~~

his tenth Christmas as Pontiff, ~~in honor of the occasion.~~

^{with} ~~celebrating~~ a midnight mass in St. Peter's, ~~and~~ ~~celebrating~~.

The first Midnight mass there since the reign of Pope

Pius in Nineteen Forty-four. Pope Paul offering

Christmas prayers for world peace - at a time, as ~~he~~

he put it - "extremely full of urgency and of hope."

EARTH ORBIT

For the men of Sky Lab Three - high above the earth today - an early Christmas present: A rare partial eclipse of the sun. With the Moon - all but blocking its outer ring. The astronauts' unique angle of vision - allowing for photographs of the eclipse such as never before possible. Another bonus - for earth bound astronomers.

~~The astronauts were also continuing their studies of the Comet Kohoutek and getting ready for another space~~^{walk}. Along the way, a special greeting from ground control in Houston. Flight controllers sending the astronauts Christmas wishes ^{from quote:-} "three sexy ladies and two working gyroscopes."

BAY MINNETTE

Federal state and ~~state~~ local officials today

seized an estimated twenty-five to ~~the~~ thirty tons of

marijuana ^{in 5 Florida Counties} ~~at Bay Minnette, Alabama.~~ A record ~~total~~

haul, ^{value} ~~is~~ estimated ^{at} ~~street value~~ ^{and} about twenty million.

Police ~~also~~ seizing eleven suspects, ^{and} ~~A joint statement~~

saying ^{the} ~~today~~ arrests - "have broken the back of the

~~major~~ major supplier for the southeastern United States."

DENVER

The weather was again blowing up ^{another} a storm today -
from the Rockies to the Great Lakes. ~~The city of~~
Denver - one of the hardest hit; with a ~~go~~ raging blizzard
there - ~~and~~ ^{and} snow drifts up to ten feet; ~~snowing in~~
- even snowplows ~~helpless~~.

The forecast for Christmas Day - calling for
more snow from the great plains ^{and right} across the upper
Mississippi valley, ^{and on} to the ~~upper~~ Great Lakes. ~~White~~

~~East, West and South - rain - White or wet - take your~~

~~pic.~~

VAIL

Vice President Gerald Ford is currently enjoying
at his favorite area,
a skiing vacation ~~at~~ Vail, Colorado. ~~But he~~ ^{When} interrupted
today a fast run down Piva Ridge and the Minie
~~his relaxation today - long enough to chat with newsman~~
Dole Trail he gave
~~Ford giving~~ a boost to local officials ~~when~~ he said
he would fully support fuel allocations for the recreation
industry.

Vice Pres. ~~is~~ Ford saying: "If there is one area in
our society that should get maximum allocation - it's
the job retention area, ^{and} ~~adding~~ that recreation qualifies
in ~~the area~~ ^{is} - "along with the production line in Detroit -
and the steel mills in Pittsburgh."

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At Evansville, Indiana - the International Society of Santa Claus was awarding today - its first annual Spirit of Christmas Awards. ~~And~~ The winners; -

Irving Berlin ^{for his song} ~~who wrote~~ "White Christmas"; ~~and~~

Johnny Marks - who wrote "Rudolph the Red Nosed

Reindeer." ^R Society President Carl Thomas Vaughn -

noting that "millions of people have been made happy

at Christmas ^{by} by the works of these two. ~~great men.~~"

The runners up - by the way - Charles

Dickens - for his "Christmas Carol," and Clement C.

Moore - who wrote ["] ~~That~~ The Night Before Christmas."

~~Here's one~~ Trouble in Paradise. ~~The story~~
~~from~~ Papeeti, ~~in~~ Tahiti; ~~where~~ gasoline deliveries ^{by}
~~have now been~~ cut twenty percent. This - leading to a
meeting of Tahiti's governing council; followed by an
announcement today - telling of plans for gas rationing.

~~Would that be~~ "Paradise lost", Bill? ^{Some} ~~of~~
would call it Paradise
regained! ~~wonder?~~

LEBANON

~~Out West at~~ ^{At} - that is Lebanon, Oregon - thanks to the

gasoline shortage - a return to the "thrilling days of yesteryear." The operator of a local cattle yard - organizing an old style cattle drive for ~~area~~ ranchers.

About a hundred head of cattle - who normally would have arrived by ~~the~~ truck making it on their own by way of what is called ~~the~~ Lebanon's 'suburban golden valley.'

~~The report goes on to say that~~ Real cowboys - riding herd on the cattle, ~~and~~ ^{and} local sheriff's deputies - ~~ride~~ ^{riding} herd on the cowboys.