

December 1, 1972

PEACE

December One - the first day of the first month of winter; marked today by a blizzard in Chicago - and more of the same in Upstate New York and on into New England.

December One - also the start of the Christmas season for many. "Peace on earth - goodwill to man." And this year - maybe this year - it could come true.

At any rate, the latest from Washington - saying that a Vietnam peace settlement is possible by Christmas. Henry Kissinger for the U.S. and Nguyen Phu Duc for South Vietnam - now in the process of working out the final kinks - we are told; with Dr. Kissinger hoping to wrap it all up - when he returns to Paris this weekend.

More than that, Dr. Kissinger is also said to have formulated - a new Middle East plan. One that would start - with a reopening of the Suez Canal; leading, hopefully, to peaceful coexistence - between the Arabs and Israelis.

"Peace on earth - goodwill to man?" No, not yet. Hardly! But there's still hope.

NEW DELHI

For the second day in row, India today was making a public attempt - to rebuild its bridges with the U.S. India's President V. V. Giri - addressing a meeting of Indian state governors. Expressing hope that the U. S. and India "can develop a sounder relationship - based on understanding and respect for mutual interest."

Touching all bases, Giri also said: "I hope that China, too, will see the spirit of the times - and make a positive response towards normalizing relations between our two countries."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW NEW DELHI

Here at home - Secretary of State Rogers quickly responded, saying the U.S. welcomes as he put it - "the positive note struck" by Indian officials; and further "reciprocates their expressed intentions." Rogers adding: "It is important that India and the U.S. - both work together toward this end."

KEY BISCAYNE

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From Key Biscayne - an announcement today that George Schulz is staying on as Treasury Secretary. He thus becomes the President's second - second-term Cabinet holdover; joining in that exclusive company - as you know, ^{with} Secretary of State ~~William~~ Rogers.

The Florida White House made it plain, however - that Schulz will be much more than just a Treasury Secretary; ^{disclosing} ~~saying~~ that he will also head - a new Cabinet-level Council on Economic Policy. A spokesman saying: "In this capacity, Secretary Schulz will be the focal point - for the overall coordination of the policy-making process in economic matters, both domestic and international."

NEIL MCELROY

A special tribute today to Neil McElroy - from President Nixon. The President saying: "The U.S. has lost an outstanding citizen, the American people have lost a dedicated public servant - and I have lost a valued friend and associate."

The President also saying of Neil McElroy of Cincinnati: "To all of his undertakings - he brought the gifts of high character and keen intelligence."

Neil McElroy - the son of an Ohio school teacher, worked his way thru Harvard - and then returned home to join the Proctor & Gamble Company of which he ultimately became President.

And for some years Procter & Gamble was my sponsor. There were those who called our agreement - "a gold-plated contract." Indirectly he played a part in making it possible for Lowell Jr. and me to cross the Himalayas to Tibet.

Later he joined the Eisenhower Administration - as

Secretary of Defense and at the Pentagon, presided over the big switch - from manpower to missiles. When that was done he rejoined Procter & Gamble as Chairman of the Board.

Through all the years that I knew him, in government and out - a forceful, dedicated man; but more than that - a warm and wonderful human being. Neil McElroy - only sixty-eight; one of the true giants of our time.

CARS

Washington again - General Motors and Ford today were given a green light - to increase their new car prices. At GM - an average of Fifty-Four Bucks per unit; at Ford - Sixty-Two-Fifty-Five. The President's Price Commission explaining that these increases were necessary - to help pay for new government-required safety equipment.

CAPE KENNEDY

*At Cape Kennedy - a clean bill of health today
for the men of Apollo-Seventeen. The government also taking
legal action - to sidestep a threatened strike by moonport
workers. At last report, all systems - go and counting.*

BOWLING GREEN

There's nothing new under the sun - so the saying goes; but underground - something else again.

For example, a discovery reported today - that two of the world's biggest cave systems are really one and the same. A team of spelunkers led by Dr. John Wilcox of Columbus, Ohio - entering the Flint Ridge cave system at Bowling Green, Kentucky; over a period of sixteen hours - wending their way through a maze of underground passageways; finally ending up - in ~~nearby~~ Mammoth Cave!

The combined Mammoth-Flint Ridge complex - a giant labyrinth containing perhaps as much as three hundred miles of underground passageways. The world's biggest - by far. Indeed, today's discovery is already being called - "the ^{spelunking} most sensational news in ~~caving in~~ twenty-five years;" since Mammoth Cave was itself first acclaimed - ^{often called:-} "one of the ^{seven} world's ~~six~~ natural wonders."

CHURCHILL FALLS FOLLOW BOWLING GREEN

In the same vein - this next from way up North in Newfoundland; where Canadian engineers have just succeeded in taming - towering Churchill Falls.

How? By drilling more than a thousand feet - through solid rock. In effect, building a giant underground dam - that now traps the flow from Churchill Falls; with a big power plant - soon to follow. Its generating capacity - expected to hit eventually more than seven Million horsepower; or enough to light up Quebec and Montreal - enough, in fact, to light up the whole city of New York.

All of which reminds me, Bill - did you ever hear the story about the three holes in the ground? Well! - well!
- well!

MEXICO CITY

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In Mexico City today and throughout Mexico - it was "here come the brides;" more than ninety thousand, in all - coming in all ages, shapes, sizes and colors; taking in lawful, legal wedlock - the men with whom they've been living for years, many of them.

This - in celebration of Mexico's second annual "Family Day;" under the sponsorship of Mexico's First Lady - Dona Maria Ester Zuno De Echeverria. And a Mexico City newspaper observing; ^{Bill -} "It will be nice for the children." In some cases - even grandchildren.

BELEM

In recent City Council elections at Belem, Brazil - the biggest vote-getter was a pretty senorita; Maria Duarte - age twenty-two - who then promptly disappeared.

A real mystery, there at the mouth of the Amazon.

Ah, but it's all been cleared up now. Senorita Duarte - finally emerging from hiding. Explaining that she has been living secretly - with one Adolfo Monteiro Filho. The latter - married and the father of two. And he, too, was a candidate for City Council - except that he finished last.

And so it goes in Belem, Brazil.