

WHITE HOUSE

Tues, Dec. 15-70,

- a big powwow today -

At the White House ~~held~~ a colorful ceremony; with

a band of Indian chiefs in full tribal dress - serving as witnesses as President Nixon signed into law a new bill.

This finally giving to the Taos Pueblo Indians - legal title to their sacred Blue Lake; also, forty-eight thousand acres of New Mexico real estate - which surrounds it; ending a dispute - that began sixty-four years ago.

President Nixon - who specifically requested the new law - observing that a grave "injustice was done;" but the government has now "started on a new road" - said he - with regard to Indian affairs. Taos elder Juan De Jesus Romero - age ninety - responding for his fellow Indians, ~~and saying~~ ~~stating that~~ this marks the beginning of "a new day - not only for the Indians, but for all Americans." And he added: "The President of the United States - is the greatest father we have."

VENUS

On the space front--^{the} a Soviet attempt today to achieve a soft-landing on the planet Venus. ~~This--~~
According to the Soviet News Agency Tass, ~~which said~~
that Russia's unmanned Venus-Seven--^{did} ~~had~~ completed a hundred-and-twenty-day flight from earth; and then-- parachuted toward the surface of Venus.

The spacecraft's subsequent descent--taking about thirty-five minutes--we hear; during which time--the ship radioed back certain information; whereupon it was apparently crushed--by the tremendous pressure of ~~the Venusian~~ ^{the planet's} atmosphere. ~~This--as you~~
~~know--the~~ same fate that befell three earlier Soviet Venus probes.

But the fact that Venus-Seven nearly made it-- that in itself "an unprecedented achievement"--says Moscow.

SAIGON

In the city of Saigon - a series of sudden terrorist attacks today; including the bombing of a hotel housing U.S. officers - also, the attempted burning of two U.S. jeeps; leaving at least four injured.

These attacks - said to have been sparked - by the shooting of the young Vietnamese last week at Qui Nhon; the boy in question - attempting to rob a truck. The U.S. soldier who shot him has since been charged with negligent homicide.

PENTAGON

Here on our own shores - a Pentagon press conference today. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird predicting that U.S. troop strength in Vietnam - will be cut to less than two hundred and eighty-four thousand by May One; thereby exceeding again - the President's previously-announced withdrawal timetable. ^{Sec.} ~~Melvin~~ Laird noting that enemy operations have been concentrated lately - in Laos and Cambodia ~~and not~~ South Vietnam.

CHICAGO

For Vice President Spiro Agnew - a trip today to Chicago; where he applauded President Nixon's decision of last Spring - sending ~~thousand~~ of American troops into Cambodia. This a "hard decision" to make - said the Vice President; but one that "served exactly the purposes - that President Nixon said it would;" destroying "vast amounts of armaments and supplies - which the enemy had planned to use against us."

Spiro Agnew then observing that "anybody who looks at the casualty lists - knows that the Cambodian Operation saved American and South Vietnamese lives." "In addition" - said he - "it has also permitted us to proceed with the Vietnamization ~~policy~~ policy - which thus far is going well."

CLOCK

The White House again - President Nixon unveiled today a new "GNP Clock", so-called; a device ticking off ~~a~~ minute-by-minute ^{-- an} estimate of the nation's Gross National Product for Nineteen-Seventy; which reached this noon - a record One Trillion Bucks.

The President observing: 'This is the first Trillion-Dollar economy - in the history of the world.' And "our objective" - said he - "is to keep it moving even faster in the years ahead." Even as he spoke - the clock adding on another Five Million.

THE HAGUE

At the Hague in the Netherlands - an agreement at last, ^{after} ~~today, dropping up~~ two weeks of wrangling - at an international conference on air law. Delegates representing seventy-seven nations - finally approving a convention demanding "severe penalties" for air hijackers; also specifying - there shall be no exceptions for political reasons. The new pact to take effect - as soon as it is ratified by ten member nations.

Only trouble - Cuba boycotting the conference - along with several Arab nations. So the effect of ~~this~~ ^{all this -} ~~agreement~~ at best, doubtful.

This next - from the University of California at Davis; where a real-life chicken expert is attempting to introduce here in the U.S. - a new breed of chicken; I mean, a really fancy, schmancy chicken - with a tail that ~~can measure more than~~ thirty feet long.

They call it - the onagadori; a species of chicken that was first bred in feudal Japan - during the Seventeenth Century; when long feathers of many hues - were much in demand for court decorations. Japanese hobbyists later picking up the fad - more recently, competing with each other in onagadori "beauty contests."

Enter - Dr. Frank Ogazawara ^{of U.S.C.} who encountered the onagadori - while studying in Japan. Bringing back thirty eggs - fifteen of which have since hatched. Dr. Ogazawara asserting that these chicks - "could give this country breeding stock for research in genetics, cell growth and the molting process."

All of which - is doubtless of great import. And

yet a chicken with a thirty-foot tail - ~~Bill Martin~~ ^{Bill Martin}, ~~could it be,~~
~~do you suppose,~~ ^{is this} just "another chicken joke"? Are you
 excited about Dr. Ogazawara's onagadori?

MANCELONA

There are those who will say - it had to happen -
and now it has. At the Schuss Mountain ski resort -
Mancelona, Michigan - a ban today on women drivers -
women snowmobile drivers, that is.

Schuss Mountain President Daniel Iannotti - explaining
the women have been driving men drivers batty; going the
wrong way on one-way trails - turning suddenly without
warning - and so on and so on. ^{Says} Daniel Iannotti; ~~explaining~~

"There's only one thing worse than a woman driver - and
that's a woman snowmobiler." ^{Here words Mr. Iannotti.}
And s-l-u-t-m-