

Friday, December 29, 1972

VIETNAM

In Saigon, informed U S sources are quoted as saying President Nixon has issued orders for a brief New Year's Day halt to the bombings. Also that the truce could be extended if the Communists return to the private negotiating table. In Paris, a Hanoi representative today said they will be ready to resume public talks on January the fourth.

VIETNAM

2
As the massive U S bombardment of North Vietnam nears its twelfth day, there are protests both at home and abroad. In Washington, twenty-two house Democrats called for a special party strategy conference to organize opposition to the bombing raids in the new Congress. In addition, two Republican Senators - Case of New Jersey and Saxby of Ohio -- announced their opposition to the heavy bombings.

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Fulbright today invited



2
Secretary of State ~~William~~ Rogers and Dr. Kissinger
to testify at a closed door ~~panel~~ committee session.
There's no word on whether they'll accept.

Some ten thousand Chinese held the first
anti-American rally in Peking since President
Nixon's visit there last February. Top Chinese
leaders - including Premier Chou En Lai - joined
in the rally - pledging firm ~~support~~ support to the
Vietnamese in ~~an~~ what they called "the war against
U S aggression and for national salvation." And
from ~~the~~ Moscow comes a report that Soviet party
~~chairman~~ chairman Brezhnev has decided to wait until
next fall, at least, before visiting the United States
for talks with President Nixon. (The reports saying
that until a Vietnamese peace agreement is reached -
such a visit remains "out of the question".)


BEGICH

At Anchorage, Alaska a special election has been called for March the sixth to fill Alaska's only congressional seat. The seat was vacated today when a court-ruled that Representative Nick Begich, missing with House Majority Leader Hale Boggs for almost three months after their plane went down somewhere - probably at sea, is legally dead - Candidates for this Alaskan Congressional seat must file petitions with Alaska's Secretary of State by midnight, January ~~Eighteen~~ Eighteen.

FARMING

The administration is coming in for ~~criticism~~ criticism on two domestic issues involving farming and grazing. Republican Congressman William Harsha of Ohio has sent President Nixon a telegram of complaint. It all has to do with the emergency farm loan program. The program had offered emergency credit in farming and rural areas struck by disasters such as floods or weather damage to crops. Officials say it's an economy move aimed at holding over-all federal spending within the President's two hundred fifty billion dollar goal.

And, ~~out~~ out in Idaho, and some other western states sheep ^{men} ~~raisers~~, are complaining about an executive



order - issued last February for a halt to the poisoning of predators - such as coyotes and wild dogs, on federal lands. Sheep men now report heavy losses from the predators - warning that unless the order is rescinded it could mean the end of sheep raising in the West.

TRASH

New York City - is well known for its ~~large~~ production of garbage -- thirty thousand tons of it, per day - the same as any other megalopolis. For years, City officials have been struggling with the problem amid predictions that - even ~~though~~ though it always can be picked up the day will come when there'll be no place to put it. Many have suggested ways ~~of~~ to solve the problem - one to build a small mountain of it in Central Park for a New York City ski hill. The latest suggestion is for an island three miles long in New York Bay - out near the Statue of Liberty.

PAY OFF

A bank manager in Memphis, Tennessee paid two extortionists fifty thousand dollars ⁱⁿ bank funds today after they told him his wife was being held hostage. Later ne learned that his wife had not been a hostage and was safe at home, unaware of the plot. The two extortionists, however, had cut the telephone wires outside ^{his} ~~the~~ home, presumably to prevent the manager from calling to check ^{on} ~~the~~ their story. Bank officials gave the manager - James Sledge - permission to make the pay-off with bank funds.

Comedian Bob Hope missed an opportunity to make his stage entrance riding a water-buffalo today because the cumbersome animal could not make it up onto the raised stage at Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines. ^{Bob had to make} Hope ~~then made~~ a more ^{Whereupon he} conventional entrance, ~~and~~ put on a show for some fourteen thousand American service men and their families at a ~~new football stadium~~ football stadium.

^{5 1/2} Bob, who is now age ~~Hope - who's now~~ sixty-nine -- started entertaining G I's ~~overseas~~ overseas back in Nineteen Forty-Eight during the Berlin airlift. Now, it's all coming to an end. "This is my last overseas show" he says,

⁶ ^{Why} adding ^{Bill that} "the Navy now has its own entertainers - who? lady sailors."

FLU

The National Center for Disease control reports influenza outbreaks in fifteen states -- and especially widespread in New York City, Baltimore, Boston and the San Francisco Bay area. All the flu appears to be caused by the Type A virus which includes both the old Hong Kong strain and the newer London flu for which no vaccine is commercially available. I hope you all dodge this flu bug.

It's a bit early to wish you all a happy New Year, but I'll do it anyhow - and I hope you will all be on hand when I call the roll for the coming year - and now - solong until then....⁶until Monday.