

EARTHQUAKE

Mon. Dec. 30 - 74.

The death toll from the northwestern Pakistan earthquake is now estimated at around five thousand - and may go much higher. With from fifteen to twenty thousand injured.

MID EAST

In a sudden ~~for~~ change of plans, Soviet leader Brezhnev has postponed ^{his January} ~~indefinitely~~ visit to Egypt, Syria and Iraq. - ~~which had been scheduled for January.~~

Arab newspapers say the Kremlin is showing its displeasure with ~~Egyptian President~~ Sadat's recent statement - ruling out a return of Soviet advisors to Egypt as a condition for accepting Soviet ~~war~~ weapons and supplies. ^{But} ~~However~~ some ^{say} ~~Soviet diplomats suggest~~ the postponement may be because of ~~Brezhnev's~~ ill health.

WATERGATE

As expected, Federal Judge John Sirica ^{today} sent
~~the~~ Watergate ~~Cover up case~~ to the jury, in ~~Washington~~
~~today~~. In ~~delivering~~ his charge, he told the ~~jury~~ jurors--
nine women and three men-- ~~quoting~~ "neither the pardon
of former President Nixon nor any other cases or
extraneous matters should have any effect on your
deliberations or your verdict," ~~quoting~~.

ASHLAND

Ashland Oil Company of Kentucky today ~~pleaded~~ pleaded guilty to making illegal ~~contributions~~ contributions to the Democratic party during the year^s from Nineteen Seventy to Nineteen Seventy two. It marked the first time the Watergate special prosecutors' office has brought charges which involve the Democratic National Committee and its chairman Robert ~~Strauss~~ Strauss.

Ashland Oil says it gave Strauss and the Democrats fifty thousand in cash. Watergate prosecutors say they may charge ^{the} persons who received as well as those who gave.

HOSTAGES

The siege at Managua, Nicaragua, came to an end today with a band of left-wing guerrillas arriving safely in Cuba with five million ~~dollars~~ in cash - along with fourteen of their comrades newly released from jail - ^{as well as} ~~and~~ four volunteer hostages who agreed to travel to Havana. In exchange for all this - thirteen hostages, ~~were set free~~ at the airport in Nicaragua, ^{were set free} moments before the guerrillas took off for ~~the flight to~~ Cuba.

SNIPER

Two were killed - and a least seven wounded by a masked gunman today, at Olean, New York. This - before police moved in and took the gunman into custody. For about two hours the sniper moved from floor to floor of the local high school building firing a high-powered rifle from the windows. Three of the wounded were firemen.

FORD

President Ford signed a two point six billion foreign aid bill today - and vetoed two ~~measures~~ other measures, one to regulate strip mining, ~~and~~ the other to boost the amount of oil imports carried on U S ships. The maritime bill, said the President, would boost the price of oil and therefore be inflationary.

MILLS

In a lengthy statement from Bethesda Naval Hospital Congressman Wilbur Mills today blamed his recent erratic public behaviour on what he termed a severe drinking problem. The Arkansas Democrat former chairman of the House Ways and Means committee - ~~ign~~ acknowledges that he considered resigning from Congress - but has now decided to stay on - and not permit the problem to spoil his career. In his statement he also vows to quit ^{liquor} ~~the drinking~~ which ^{also} he says [^] caused him to suffer blackouts and fatigue.

GOLD

In anticipation of an American rush to buy

gold, ^{the} ~~prices for the precious metal~~ ^{of gold today hit the record high} ~~rose to a record~~

^{dollars} two hundred one ^{and} forty-cents an ounce ⁱⁿ Paris.

~~today - while reaching nearly two hundred on other~~

~~European markets.~~ Prices, ~~however,~~ fell later in the

~~day~~ as traders sought quick profits. ^{if Tomorrow} For the first

time in more than ^{four decades} ~~forty years.~~ Americans will be

allowed to buy, sell, and own gold bouillon. ~~beginning~~

~~tomorrow and~~ Many are expected to enter the market.

~~Meanwhile~~ ^{while} Mean ~~while~~ in ~~Switzerland~~ South Africa which

produces more than half the world's gold - mine ^{people} ~~officials~~

^{were} ~~toasted~~ ^{ing} the sky-rocketing prices and windfall profits.

^{In only 4 years} ~~with champagne,~~ The price of gold has quadrupled. ~~is~~

~~four years - up sixty dollars an ounce this year alone.~~

AUTOS

One of Britain's best ~~to~~ known sports car lines - the Aston-Martin - went out of business today after sixty years. Notable among those who drove the Aston - were the fictitious ^{chi} James Bond - and the real life Prince Charles who has the latest one hundred fifty mile ~~per hour~~ ^{per hour} model.

Here at home, Americans drove more autos fewer miles and at lower speeds during the year which ends tomorrow midnight. In fact, says the

federal highway administration, it's the first time in ^{30 yrs. for} highway travel ^{to} ~~has~~ shown a yearly decrease. ~~is~~

~~thirty years.~~ This, despite the presence of more ~~roads~~ ^{roadway}

^{More} cars on the road. - ~~and more roads to use. Is it~~

~~too soon early to say American travel habits are~~

changing? ~~Perhaps.~~ If ^{Dr.} ~~doctor~~ Harb Hayre of Houston

University has his way ^{this} New Year's Eve ⁴ tipsy

drivers will talk to a tape recorder instead of blowing

up a balloon to determine whether they're drunk. Dr.

Hayre, a professor of ~~elect~~ electrical engineering,

says voice patterns provide a more precise indication

of a person's state of intoxication than other tests.

~~now in use. Most of all, Hayre~~ ^{He} says, a tape recorder

test would be easy, - and ~~could be~~ done anywhere

without requiring a lab. So to Dr. Hayre we
say hear hear!

MAGICIANS

For the first time since the days ~~of~~ of Thurston Blackstone and Houdini - rabbits are once again leaping out of hats - valuables are disappearing under ~~handkerch~~ handkerchiefs and buzz-saws are whirring toward boxes containing beautiful girls. Magicians are again performing before crowded theaters - passing their ~~low~~ hoops around floating ladies - dispatching ponies in clouds of smoke - and producing bowls of gold-fish from under silk ~~on~~ scarves. No one is sure when the first ~~magicians~~ magician waved his wand - some say in ancient Egypt - though in ^{say, the Nat. Geog -} Europe they first were vagabonds - carrying their ~~tricks in their pockets, and eventually moving onto the~~ ^{later} ~~stage in elaborate costumes. - Says, National Geographic~~ ^{the} ~~Geographic, and in the Eighteen Thirties American~~ ~~artist George Catlin~~ ~~with unexpectedly found himself~~ ~~honored as a magician by the superstitious Sioux Indians~~