

Monday, June 18, 1973

WHITE HOUSE

At the White House - east meets west; for the second time - in just over a year. President Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev not only greeting each other like old friends but more than that - pledging to work together in the cause of world peace.

The President - first, noting the agreements that were entered into when he visited Moscow last year. "We will not only build on the foundation we laid then - said he - "but we have the opportunity to make even greater progress." The President adding: "The hopes of the world rest with us - at this time, in this meeting; and I am confident he continued - "that in our meetings this week we shall not disappoint those hopes."

Next - the Russian leader. "I and my comrades who came with me - are prepared to work hard to ensure that the talks we will have - justify the hopes of our peoples and

and serve the interests of a peaceful future for all mankind."

Whereupon the President and his guest - then conferred for nearly four hours; turning what had been planned as a brief opening session - into a full working meeting.

Press Secretary Ron Ziegler later announcing the successful completion - of three and possibly four new Soviet-American agreements. These - to be signed tomorrow.

WATERGATE

The Senate Watergate Committee cancelled its next round of hearings - originally set to begin tomorrow. This - in deference to the Brezhnev visit; which means that the long awaited testimony of former White House aide John Dean will be heard - not tomorrow. It will be heard a week from tomorrow.

This was done at the request of Senate Majority leader Mike Mansfield - and Senator Hugh Scott. "A delay of one week" - they observed "would not jeopardize the hearings; and that one week" they continued - "might give President Nixon and Mr. Brezhnev - the opportunity to reconcile differences, arrive at mutual agreements; and achieve results which would be beneficial to all mankind."

EARTH ORBIT

As of Three-Twenty-Two this morning, Eastern time - a new space endurance record. The three skylab astronauts - surpassing a mark previously set by three Russian cosmonauts. Whereupon they were proclaimed by Houston "the new world champs" for length of time in space.

And - they're still going strong. Pete Conrad - Paul Weitz and Joe Kerwin - now in their twenty-fifth day in earth orbit. And said to be still remarkably fit. They also were completing their last full day of space research, with splash down set for Friday.

KEY WEST

Meanwhile, after long hours of agonizing effort - when hope was all but gone - a last ditch attempt to rescue that trapped sub off the coast of Key West. A Navy rescue ship - dropping a heavy grappling line; in what can only be classed a miracle - finally succeeding in hooking the stricken sub. A Navy spokesman - telling what happened next. "They saw what they had to do" - said he - "they gave it one hell of a yank - and out it popped." Of the four men aboard - the two in a forward section will live. They're now in a de-compression chamber but the two in an aft section - including Clayton Link, the son of the man who invented the experimental sub. The Navy says: "It will be some time - before we know anything about them."

CHICAGO

In a veterans hospital at Chicago - death came today to aged Fredrak Fraske; and with his passing - the end of an era. Fredrak Fraske emigrated to the U.S. along with his parents back in the Eighteen Eighties. Later, lying about his age - so he could join the army. Serving in the late Eighties and early Nineties in what then was Wyoming Territory; then -an area of Indian hostility.

Fredrak Fraske the last surviving veteran of our early Indian wars. At his death - age one hundred and one.

SUPREME COURT

From the U.S. Supreme Court - a ruling today that the various states must apportion congressional districts on an equal population basis; must do so - even if it means splitting up counties and other political sub-divisions.

At the same time - a companion ruling. The High Court allowing a certain amount of lee-way in the re-districting of state legislatures. But here, too, asserting that the use of "at large" elections - is a clear violation of the Constitution.

In still another case - the Supreme Court upholding the powers of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Ruling that the F D A does have the authority - under the Food and Drug Act - to ban the use of ineffective drugs. This a ruling that could affect thousands of products - some dating back a century or more.

DIXY

Elsewhere in Washington - a meeting of the National Coal Association; heard today - from the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Dixy Lee Ray urging "wider and more intelligent" use of atomic power - in years to come. But, "for now and the immediate future" - she continued - coal is clearly the answer to the nation's energy problems.

Dr. Ray going on to say that coal - is available, abundant, low cost and domestically produced. Adding it "has a potential right now - for satisfying all of today's needs." Dr. Ray also challenging a ban on the "direct burning of high sulphur eastern coal - at a time when we should be rapidly expanding coal production throughout the nation." "Paradoxes such as this - "must be resolved." said she.

OSAKA

In Japan - the death of two members of Japan's ruling liberal Democratic party - leading to a pair of parliamentary-bi-elections. At Osaka - the Communist candidate scored an upset victory. Takeko Kutsunugi becoming the first Osakan Communist - ever elected to Japan's upper house.

This a protest - we are told - against the government's failure to deal with problems - such as wide-spread pollution, which in heavily industrialized Osaka is the major issue.

PIKE'S PEAK COG ROAD

How has the weather been this spring and early summer where you are? Here in the East, the rain has reminded me of the monsoon season in India. But in one part of Colorado it has been snow instead of rain.

The longest cog railway, in the world, is the one up Pike's Peak. And until a few days ago they had eighteen feet of snow blocking the line. In fact traffic has been delayed on the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, for a month longer than usual. General Manager Martin Frick, says at Windy Point, near the summit, the snow until a few days ago was eighteen feet deep. Every time the snow plows made their way through it the wind blew the snow back in again. But it's all clear now. The Pike's Peak Cog Railway running as usual - taking visitors up to fourteen thousand feet from where they can look down on the Cripple Creek-Victor gold mining area where the local residents believe they are about to have a new gold rush. The largest amount of gold

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anywhere in the world, geologists say is probably right there. Interested in gold, Bill?

WIELICZKA

This next - from Wieliczka, Poland; site of one of the oldest working salt mines in Europe; a giant complex of underground caverns and caves mined for more than a thousand years. The Wieliczka salt mine - once manned by convicts; later becoming a show place with salt crystal chandeliers.

It recently was discovered that salt miners rarely suffer from respiratory diseases. In fact they now are treating victims of bronchitis, asthma and so on down in this ancient mine, and even converting into a five hundred bed sanitarium what so long had been the Wieliczka salt mine.