

Thursday, August 28, 1975

WHITE HOUSE

President Ford met today with the governors of sixteen states; hoping to get them to pressure Congress into removing price controls on natural gas. The President claiming this would help ease expected shortages this winter. His view later was endorsed - by fifteen of the sixteen governors.

The lone disenter Governor Shapp of Pennsylvania; who said the President's plan could lead - to a "thirty-two billion dollar a year consumer rip-off."

POWER

Meanwhile, the Federal Power Commission
announcing plans for "selective" de-control - of some
natural gas prices. This - by means of existing authority;
but quickly criticized by some as "back door" de-control -
in defiance of Congress. S P C commissioner William
Springer insisting, he and his colleagues had no other
choice. And now...

ALEXANDRIA

~~In the Middle East~~ at Alexandria -- ~~Egypt's~~

President Sadat today said he is ready right now -
to sign a new interim peace agreement with Israel.
Sadat adding there is a "great possibility the new
pact will be ~~initiated~~ initialed by Sunday ~~mor~~ Monday.
"If this agreement is completed" he continued - "I plan
to visit the U S soon."

Sadat's statement coming at the start of
another round of talks - with Secretary of State
Kissinger who later said : "It definitely indicates -
we are getting down to the wire".

And was

FUNERALS

From the Federal Trade Commission a report today highly critical of the nation's two billion dollar funeral industry. The F T C saying undertakers have inflicted "substantial economic and emotional injuries - on large numbers of consumers" - ~~therefore~~^{and} propos^{ed}~~ing~~ a new set of rules ~~aimed at imposing~~^{for} tighter control. At the same time, the F C C announcing tentative agreement on a consent ~~decre~~ decree - to be signed by the nation's largest ~~for~~ funeral chain. Service Corporation International to make refunds to customers in sixteen states who were over-charged for flowers, pallbearers, cemetery fees, crematory services, and so on.

DMZ

Defense Secretary ~~James~~ Schlesinger today met with a senior U S military commander - at an observation post on the demilitarized ~~in~~ zone between north and south Korea. Lt. General James Hollingsworth saying he and his ~~own~~ troops are acting under a violent, short war concept;" and are ~~also~~ ~~thus~~ prepared "to suppress and destroy the enemy in nine days - in case of a north Korean ~~also~~ attack. Schlesinger ~~then~~ flew on ~~flying~~ to Tokyo where he hopes to iron out some recent kinks in U S ~~and~~ Japanese defense agreements.

BASTIA

Corsican separatists today ambushed and decimated a group of Corsican police - during a riot in the streets of Bastia . Separatists opening up with shotguns, automatic weapons and twenty-two caliber rifles and then taking flight-leaving at least one policeman dead - another in a coma and sixteen others wounded. ~~And the latest:~~ France ^{is} threatening to send in paratroopers, ~~if necessary~~ - to maintain order.

BIHAR

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today left New Delhi ~~briefly~~ - for the first time since declaring a state of national emergency - Madame Gandhi flying over northern Bihar state to view the damage from the worst monsoon flood ~~there~~ in forty years, ^{where more than} ~~officials saying at least~~ fifty thousand have been marooned - some without food or water for the past three days. The lady Premier's plane ~~never~~ ~~set down though~~ - ^{ed} returning to New Delhi after a four hour aerial survey. Madame Gandhi then meeting with top aides ^{hoping} ~~in an effort~~ to speed up rescue operations.

ADDIS ABABA

The new military government of ~~Ethiopia~~ Ethiopia issued a one line statement today - telling of the burial of former emperor Haile Selassie within hours of his death. We are also told the news was greeted calmly by ~~both~~ ^{the} Ethiopians. A western ~~diplomax~~ ^{diplomat} ~~commenting~~ ⁺ ~~on this~~ saying: "The Ethiopians are by nature ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~very~~ unemotional people - but I would not have believed the end of an epoch could have occurred so quietly."

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And now for e -