

January 8, 1973
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NEW ORLEANS

Terror turned to mystery in New Orleans today.

Police rushed the roof of that downtown motel where they expected to find one or perhaps two snipers prepared to battle to the death. Instead, they found only the body of one sniper killed by helicopter gunfire seventeen hours earlier. The only casualties on the roof today were four policemen hit by ricochette fire from their own weapons. None seriously hurt. A room-by-room search of the eighteen story motel was begun. No hint of what happened to the other gunmen. But one thing grimly certain: Seven people, including the sniper on the roof, were dead, and at least twenty wounded.

PARIS

In the search for peace at Paris - a resumption of secret talks today. Henry Kissinger conferring with Hanoi's le Duc Tho - for four-and-a-half hours. The two men - then agreeing to meet again tomorrow.

For what it's worth though, the climate at today's talks - said to have been the coolest yet. The opposing delegations - arriving and leaving separately, unsmiling. At no time - we are told - were the two sides seen together. And thus there were no public handshakes - no friendly strolls - no waving at photographers, as in the past.

Indeed, Tho himself perhaps setting the whole tenor of the talks - when he said earlier: "The decisive moment has arrived."

CAPITOL HILL

Here at home, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - front and center today on Capitol Hill. Laird telling a House Armed Services Committee - that the U.S. Vietnamization program is now "virtually completed." Only the training of a few C-One-Thirty and F-Five pilots - still to go - said he; which means within a matter of weeks - "there will be no reason for the U.S. to maintain logistics, air and ground capability in South Vietnam."

Laird stressed, however: "We will continue to maintain a presence" in Vietnam. We will continue to do so - said he - for "as long as the POW's are held" and the missing remain unaccounted for.

SUPREME COURT

Another Monday - another big day at the Supreme Court; including, one, a verdict upholding the right of a State Appellate Court - to overturn a jury's finding of fact in a civil case; two, a ruling that California's flag desecration law - is so broad and vague as to be unConstitutional; and three, a decision exempting the election of judges - from the so-called "one-man, one-vote" principle.

The Supreme Court also stepping in - where brave men fear to tread; upholding the right of the Texas Employment Commission - to require pregnant women to stop working two months before they are expected to give birth. The High Court agreeing that such a regulation - was "not arbitrary" and, in fact, perfectly reasonable.

WEATHER

On the weather front - bitter cold today from the Northern Plains to New England; with lows of twenty-to-thirty below fairly commonplace - in North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Upstate New York. But worst of all - International Falls, Minnesota, and Saranac Lake, New York; each of which reporting thirty-seven below - the coldest in the nation.

SOUTH FOLLOW WEATHER

At the same time - an icy winter blast was sweeping across the South; dumping up to nine inches of snow - on parts of Tennessee and South Carolina; also, stalling traffic and knocking out power - in much of Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina.

Because of the concentration of population though - the Atlanta area was perhaps hardest hit. Numerous tree branches there - crashing down under a heavy coating of ice; bringing with them countless powerlines - leaving much of the area in a virtual state of blackout.

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - Israel and Syria were again locked in battle today; blasting away at each other - with long-range artillery, tanks and fast-flying jets. The fighting taking place - according to Radio Damascus - "along the entire length of the front." The Syrians also claiming to have downed - three Israeli warplanes.

Reverse side - Israel claiming to have shot down ⁶~~five~~ enemy Migs. Further, telling of aerial strikes - deep inside Syria; with ^{enemy}~~many~~ losses - said to have included at least six tanks.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon picks a new delegate to U.S. and Russian SALT talks. U. Alexis Johnson - up to now an Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs - succeeding the departed Gerard Smith. Johnson is also the nation's highest-ranking - career diplomat.

The White House stressed, however, that Johnson will not head the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency - as Smith did. A spokesman explaining that "the President has decided that our SALT negotiator - should be a full-time position." Adding: "This will free the SALT negotiator of administrative burdens - and provide full-time leadership for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency."

PAT

The White House again - Pat Nixon today unveiled a new exhibit of inaugural memorabilia. This including the Bible - on which George Washington was sworn in as the first President of the United States; also, the two Bibles that Richard Nixon used - when he was sworn in four years ago; the same Bibles he will ^{be} using again, incidentally - next week.

Speaking of which, Mrs. Nixon saying she was just as excited the second time around - as she was the first. "It's a moment in history" - said she; "a time when we see friends from all over the United States - who come together and rejoice for a cause we all worked for."

The First Lady also discussing the President's upcoming sixtieth birthday - saying: "We have big family plans." Mrs. Nixon refusing to reveal her gift to the President - but adding ruefully: "He's never had a surprise yet."

TAMPA

From Tampa, Florida - the story of a weekend robbery at the Open Door Baptist Church; with a man wearing red slacks and a red ski mask - bursting through the church's open door in the midst ^{was} devotionals; rounding up the congregation - numbering about thirty, in all; taking up a collection of his own - finally, escaping with an undetermined amount of cash.

And thus a case where it might truly be said: The devil made him do it.

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union today launched an unmanned satellite toward the moon. Luna number twenty one it's called and as is the custom, the Kremlin isn't saying what it's supposed to do until it's sure it will do it.

Moscow is, however, admitting to an outbreak of influenza, a major outbreak described in the evening newspaper. Clinics, we're told, will remain open Saturday's to treat the growing caseload.

A special doctor for a special patient. Word in Moscow that Houston's heart surgeon, Dr. Michael DeBakey, has been summoned to perform an artificial transplant in the thigh of Dr. Mstislav Keldish, the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

In April of last year, Dr. DeBakey, made a similar secret trip and performed a similar operation on Russia's foremost scientist, who is sixty-one and perhaps the most honored man in the Soviet academic world.

NEW YORK

Starting today - "Save the Pun Week." Save it from what - hard to say. Except that the following perhaps a clue.

It seems there was once an African king - who gave a party in his thatched hut. To make sure there was enough room - and to protect it from harm - he put his big throne up in a makeshift attic. But the dancing at the party later grew so intense - that the throne was shaken loose and tumbled down; in the process, leveling two courtiers - and narrowly missing the king. All of which is said to prove - that people who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones.