

PARIS

Fri. May 16-69

On the peace front - Paris - hope springs eternal.

Indeed, soaring to new heights today - on the strength of President Nixon's new eight-point peace plan.

To begin with - Henry Cabot Lodge <sup>was the</sup> urging Communist negotiators to think it over carefully; to fully consider this latest U.S. offer - <sup>not</sup> ~~to~~ answer ~~not~~ in haste. ~~and~~ <sup>what</sup> his remarks <sup>^</sup> apparently hitting a responsive chord.

Speaking for the opposition - a Viet Cong spokesman <sup>what</sup> calling the new plan "absurd," <sup>what</sup> ~~adding~~ however, that these "were only - "preliminary remarks." "We reserve the right to make additional remarks later"- said he.

Summing up <sup>^</sup> ~~later~~ - Lodge saying the Communists "gave every indication - that they will consider these proposals." Another U.S. diplomat adding that today's meeting - had "contrasted agreeably with some meetings we have had in the past."

All this - admittedly a shaky basis for optimism.  
Still - it's there.

CHICAGO

Here at home - Chicago - Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird looks to the future, <sup>saying</sup> ~~asserting today~~ he foresees no big cut in defense spending - "even if we are successful in eliminating the war in Vietnam."

Said Melvin Laird: "The American people are the ultimate bosses in this country - if they want <sup>a</sup> ~~drastically~~ reduced defense budget they can certainly get it. But as long as" they want "security for our nation in this real, uncertain and high-risk world - it is going to cost a lot of money."

KUALA LUMPUR-MALACCA

*Continuing* Crisis in Malaysia. <sup>a</sup> ~~In the~~ fourth straight day of racial violence <sup>with</sup> - Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman ~~today~~ delegating broad powers to his chief lieutenant. Telling Deputy Premier Tun Abdul Razak - to take all necessary steps to quell the rioting.

Meanwhile, the fighting spread today from Kuala Lumpur - all the way to Malacca - halfway to Singapore. With the official death toll - now about a hundred; although unofficially - much more.

...ed two Federal judges from the South - as likely candidates. These - said he - men who are "pretty much in the central area" in judicial philosophy.

## WHITE HOUSE

From the White House - a post script ~~today~~ to the Fortas affair. Suggesting that President Nixon may wait - and make two appointments to the Supreme Court at the same time. One - to replace the resigned Abe Fortas. The other - to replace soon-to-retire Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Next question: When? And who? As to that though - the White House refusing comment. Leaving the conjecture to others - among them, Pennsylvania's Senator Scott; who today suggested two Federal judges from the South - as likely candidates. These - said he - men who are "pretty much in the central area" in judicial philosophy.

## CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the Apollo-Ten countdown continues to tick away tonight. At last report - all signs "go" for Sunday's scheduled blast-off. With men and machines primed and ready - or they soon will be. Even the weather - holding steady and near-perfect.

This to be the riskiest flight - that man has yet made into space. So far though - one of the most trouble-free. And let's hope - they can just keep it that way.

MOSCOW FOLLOW CAPE KENNEDY

In the Mediterranean - another five Soviet warships were added today to Russia's Middle Eastern fleet. Two destroyers today - a Soviet soft-landing on the planet Venus - fifty million miles away. With the Russian space capsule - already said to be radioing back "immensely important" information. *With* still another Soviet soft-landing on Venus - set for tomorrow.

## MIDDLE EAST

In the Mediterranean - another five Soviet warships were added today to Russia's Middle Eastern fleet. Two destroyers and three landing craft - raising to about sixty the number of Soviet ships now operating in that area.

At the same time - Cairo charging an Israeli build-up along the Suez Canal. Warning that the situation <sup>there</sup> has now come dangerously close - "to the point of a new explosion."

Sir Lewis Casson - he was ninety-three.

CASSON

Britain's oldest stage couple - perhaps the oldest in the world - separated at last today by death; with the passing of Sir Lewis Casson - after a lengthy illness.

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Sir Lewis - ~~you'll recall~~ - the actor-husband of Dame Sybil Thorndike. The two ~~of them~~ married in Nineteen-Oh-Eight - and they had starred together ever since. Appearing last in New York - in Nineteen-Fifty-Seven. Appearing last in Britain - in a revival of "Arsenic and Old Lace" only three ~~■~~ years ago.

Sir Lewis Casson - he was ninety-three.



COLUMBUS

From Columbus, Indiana <sup>comes</sup> the story ~~today~~ of a girl-watchers' dream. Imagine it - if you can: Some sixty thousand scantily-clad brunettes - flitting gaily across the countryside.

Only it wasn't a dream - more like a nightmare for police and street cleaners. The girls representing a truck load of centerfold pictures - bound for you-know-what magazine. About twenty tons of feminine pulchritude - on paper, at least - scattered hither and yon by an early-morning <sup>truck</sup> accident.

Warren, would you say that "Miss June" - was busting out all over?

LONDON

Woman versus machine. The story - from London. Party of the first part - British actress Margaret Courtenay. Filming a scene with Fred the Robot - a seven-foot mechanical monster; who was playing a would-be strangler - except that he wasn't quite up to the job.

Instead of clutching at Miss Courtenay's neck - Fred somehow clasping the forty-one part of her forty-one, twenty-eight, thirty-nine figure. Refusing to release his grip - until his master triggered a reverse mechanism.

Luckily unharmed - Miss Courtenay later observing that Fred was - quote - "quite the most frightening thing I've ever been attached to." As for Fred - he just wasn't talking.