

Thurs. Oct 31 68

~~From capital to capital - around the world~~

~~Still more~~
~~the peace rumors were building again today, to fever~~

~~pitch~~ In ~~the~~ Paris - French Foreign Minister Michel

Debre calling these - the "decisive hours" in U.S. and

North Vietnamese negotiations. In Tokyo - the Japanese

Foreign Office ~~asserting~~ ^{was saying} there ~~was~~ could still be a U.S.

bombing halt - before the U S Presidential election. In

Saigon - a U.S. military source ^{was} quoted as saying there

might as well be a bombing halt - because "there just

aren't any worthwhile targets left to hit." While in

Washington - the White House was refusing for the first

time - to deny the possibility of an imminent breakthrough.

~~In light of the foregoing - what's holding things
up? Answer - of course - nobody knows. However,~~

~~observers wondering - could it be L B J? If so - the~~

~~reasoning goes - it's perhaps to prevent a charge of~~

~~"playing politics" with the war - of formulating~~

Ref. Now - ~~this~~ latest: President Johnson ^(meeting) tonight
with the National Security Council - also additional
civilian and military leaders. Adding that the
President will address the nation - later tonight--
via radio and television. *Is this*

46/2 to be the "big break"? We'll have to wait and see.

SAIGON

Meanwhile, the fighting persists ^{tonight} ~~including~~
~~this latest~~ ^{with} another rocket attack on ~~the great city~~
~~of Saigon.~~ ^{The} First such ~~attack~~ in more than two months.
~~With about~~ a dozen enemy rockets - killing at least two
Vietnamese and wounding several more. ~~Writing a~~
~~bloody start~~ ^{This on} ~~to the celebration of~~ South Vietnam's
~~fifty~~ fifth annual National Day.

NEW ORLEANS

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More on the war - from New Orleans; where
a meeting of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons -
is currently in session. ^{with} Dr. Richard Stark of the
Columbia University Medical School - ~~who is~~ just back
from Vietnam - ^{refuting} ~~attempting to lay to rest~~ charges of
indiscriminate U.S. bombing and napalming.

~~Dr. Stark asserting that civilians are rarely
burned or disfigured in such operations - ~~but because~~
allied bombings are extremely accurate. Adding,
^{He did say} ~~however~~, there is a great need for plastic surgeons
in Vietnam. First, ~~said he~~ because so many
Vietnamese suffer from birth defects, And second -
because of Saigon's traffic "maelstrom." Dozens of
pretty, young Vietnamese girls literally "scalped" said
Dr. Stark - when their long hair gets tangled in the
wreckage of their motorbikes.~~

After five months of searching - apparently proof positive today of the whereabouts of ~~that~~^{the} missing nuclear sub - the U. S. S. Scorpion. A Navy rescue party ~~is~~ coming up with the find - about four hundred miles southwest of the Azores. With "remote controlled underwater photography" - said to have identified several parts of the hull of the Scorpion; resting at this moment in about ten thousand feet of water. - almost 2 miles down.

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Of the ninety-nine men who were aboard the craft when it vanished - still no word. ~~How~~ However, the Navy promptly announced ~~the~~^{ed} plans - to reconvene an official court of inquiry into the Scorpion disaster. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Thomas Moorer saying: "It is hoped that this new evidence - will enable the Navy to ascertain the cause of the loss."

The Israeli army announces that an Israeli
commando unit slipped into Egypt Thursday night,
Tonight, ~~fk~~ blew up two bridges and the power station
on the Nile River and got back safely to Israel.

This
~~It happened~~ one hundred and forty ~~four~~ miles north of,
this side
of the Aswan Dam.

JERUSALEM

In the tense Middle East - Israeli and
Jordanians gunners ^{again were dueling} ~~dueling~~ across their cease-fire
line - in at least six separate incidents today. At
the same time - the semi-official Cairo newspaper
Al Ahram ^{was} warning that Arab-Israeli relations are
once again approaching the explosion point.

Earlier, at Jerusalem - ~~Israeli~~ Israeli Deputy
Premier Yigal Allon ^{was} accusing Russia of stepping ~~up~~
up its interests in the Mideast. Warning, however,
that Israel - does not intend to become another
Czechoslovakia. Allon implying that Israel would
expect speedy help from the United States - if Russia
should ever intervene militarily in ~~the~~ behalf of the
Arabs.

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HOLLYWOOD HILLS

Murder in the movie capital. Famed matinee idol of yester year Ramon Novarro - found dead today in his Hollywood Hills home. The man who played the first "Ben Hur" - the first of the screen's great Latin lovers - apparent victim of a brutal beating. He was sixty-nine.

BRIDGETON

From Bridgeton, New Jersey - comes ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ~~story~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~neighborhood~~ ~~grocer~~ Garth Del
Ducca - ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~holdup~~ ~~victim~~ ~~twice~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~last~~
fifteen months. In the second robbery - barely escaping
with his life; as he ~~was~~ ~~forced~~ ~~to~~ ~~recall~~ ~~in~~ ~~court~~ - when
^{told about} ~~was~~ ~~forced~~ ~~to~~ ~~recall~~ ~~in~~ ~~court~~ - when
summoned to testify against the alleged bandit.

Step by step - Garth Del Ducca ~~is~~ ~~reliving~~
his brush with death. Telling how the holdup man pressed
a gun against his temple - pulled the trigger - and would
have killed him if the gun hadn't misfired. ~~When~~ ~~suddenly~~
the ~~grocer~~ ~~stumbled~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~stand~~ - falling
^{witness}
into the arms of a court official. The strain of reliving
that ~~moment~~ ~~moment~~ - too much for him. At age fifty-
five - Garth Del Ducca - victim of a heart attack.

POLITICS

A couple of hours ago when I flew into ~~the~~
Poughkeepsie ~~airport~~ with my friend Bob Evans of
Detroit and his wife, in their Lockheed Lodestar, I
was much surprised to find one of the candidates standing
on an improvised platform making a speech to some of
my Dutchess County neighbors. ^{there at the airport} It was easy to see that
Senator Muskie of
Maine has a real flair for this sort of thing. With his
Down East fishing stories he brought gales of laughter
from the small crowd ~~so assembled~~ there at the airport.
~~There is no doubt but~~ ^That he makes a favorable
impression on his audiences, with his down to earth
New England style, is quite obvious.

~~Meanwhile~~ Meanwhile, Hubert Humphrey was in
Newark referring to ~~this~~ Halloween as the Republican
National Holiday. ^{Adding that} ~~He said~~ Americans had been getting
used to "tricks from his opponent, but now ~~we~~ are going to
enjoy some "treats" from one Hubert Humphrey.

How are you celebrating Halloween, Warren?

NEW YORK

I mentioned the Democrats - their
Candidates, how about ~~As for Richard Nixon~~ the Republican ~~contender~~
~~Richard Nixon was~~
~~was getting in his first ticks today~~ Filling in an
today -
absentee ~~αα~~ ballot - at his New York apartment. ~~When~~
When asked who he was voting for - ~~Nixon~~ ^{he told} ~~telling~~ newsmen
that's "confidential information." ^{But} ~~But~~ ^{he added,} "you are free to
speculate" - ~~said he.~~

Pat Nixon and daughter Tricia ^{were} also casting
absentee ballots. Tricia ^{age} ~~who is~~ twenty two - voting
in her first presidential election. With ^{father} ~~Nixon~~ trying
to be helpful - telling ~~his~~ daughter: "Now what I would
do..." Whereupon Tricia interrupted him - saying:
"I know what I'm going to do." Her father ^{shrugging} ~~replied~~
and remarking: "Can you tell
~~it just goes to show you - you "can't tell~~ any of the
younger generation what to do?"