

Tues. Feb. 9-71.

For the men of Apollo-Fourteen - a joyous "welcome home," ~~today~~, <sup>as you no doubt know,</sup> The first greeting - that of a South Pacific ground recovery communicator; who watched wide-eyed - along with hundreds of millions of television viewers right around the globe - as the spacecraft scored a perfect bullseye landing. - and covered better than ever by my CBS colleagues.

Astronauts Shepard, Mitchell and Roosa - later carried by helicopter to the nearby recovery carrier New Orleans. Admiral Haywood - the skipper - telling them: "All America welcomes the return of the Apollo-Fourteen astronauts." In response, Alan Shepard observing - it was a "fantastic recovery." And he added: "It's just been completely super all around."

While back at Houston - cigars all around. The chief of the U.S. Manned Spaceflight Program - Dale Myers - observing: "This flight has been a tremendous step forward for our whole space program." Best of all - he continued - "it has proven again man's usefulness in space."

LOS ANGELES

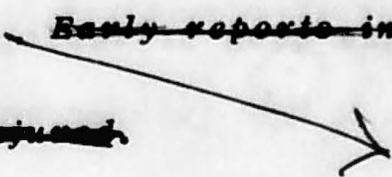
No doubt you've heard about that  
~~Here on our own shores - a~~ major earthquake today

in Southern California, - ~~as you no doubt have heard by now.~~

The first shock wave toppling buildings - collapsing bridges  
and roadways - striking panic in the hearts of thousands.

According to seismologists ~~-~~ <sup>today's was</sup> the worst California earthquake  
since Nineteen-Thirty-Three. ~~Early reports indicating at~~

~~least fifteen dead scores injured.~~  
<sup>sixteen</sup>



ADD LOS ANGELES

Early reports indicating <sup>more than a score</sup> ~~at least twenty-six~~ dead--  
perhaps as many as five hundred injured. Many of these--  
patients in a Veterans Hospital that was crushed as  
by "a giant hand." President Nixon later declaring  
California--a major disaster area. Vice President ~~Spiro~~  
Agnew also flying to Los Angeles--to help expedite  
Federal assistance.

At the top of the war news tonight - a report that South Vietnamese forces have now pushed ~~some~~<sup>some</sup> fifteen miles into Laos. And this - we are told - in the face of monsoon rains - that have virtually halted U.S. helicopter support.

At the same time, South Vietnam's Vice President **Ky** ~~is~~<sup>was</sup> sounding what could be the opening bell in a projected Presidential campaign. Ky urging extreme caution - with regard to Laos; warning that if South Vietnam were not careful - it could become "bogged down" in a long military campaign there.

*at home again*  
Here ~~was a statement~~ - Defense Secretary Melvin

Laird put in separate appearances today - before the House and Senate Armed Services Committee. In both cases, stating that Allied operations in Laos - "would save additional American lives." This - said he - by enhancing "the security of the remaining U.S. forces inside South Vietnam;" also, "setting the stage for bringing home additional thousands of Americans - in coming months."

Senator Jackson of Washington later saying: "This particular operation - should have been carried out five or six years ago." Senator Stennis of Mississippi <sup>saying</sup> ~~stating that~~ he "felt better than ever" - about the fighting capabilities of the South Vietnamese. And he added: "This could be the one - that cuts the jugular vein."

PARIS

*Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam*

*Ellsworth Bunker - was conferring today with Allied peace negotiators in Paris. These talks - said to have covered "just about everything." Along the way - Saigon's Pham Dang Lam also issued a statement; saying there is no justification - for the present "apprehension and concern" about the Laos action. This apparently an attempt to defuse, if possible - a massive anti-war  demonstration planned for tomorrow in Paris.*

## JERUSALEM

*In the Middle East - at Jerusalem - a major policy address today. Israeli Premier Golda Meir - rejecting Egypt's proposed terms for reopening the Suez Canal, on the grounds - said she - that Cairo was merely attempting to gain a strategic advantage - without making any real progress toward peace.*

*Madame Meir then went on to say, however - that Israel would consider a separate deal to open the canal; would consider a separate deal - said She - provided <sup>ed</sup> the waterway would then be opened "to all states, including Israel." But she added that such a deal must include a military de-escalation - on both sides of the Suez, not just the Israeli side.*

LONDON

The year - about Seven-Seventy-Five A.D.; when the Anglos and the Saxons mutually agreed that two hundred and forty pieces of silver - weighed exactly, and therefore equaled, One Pound British Sterling; and then came the shilling, the thrup'ny bit, <sup>the hapenny,</sup> the florin, the guinea - in time, the fiscal base for Britain's far-flung empire.

Ah, but all things change - and the British are now facing a new D-Day - "D" for Decimal. The date - February Fifteen - Monday next; when John Bull is to set aside more than a thousand years of tradition - in order to take up a new decimal system of currency. The British Exchequer spending more than Three Million in advertising alone - getting people to "Think Decimal."

Nobody expects it to be easy though. Indeed, the problems inherent in such a changeover - what with a total of six new coins - at first glance, seemingly insurmountable. Imagine, if you can, here in this country - changing the slots in all the vending machines, pay phones, toll booths and so on and so on. Incredible!



VENICE

Venice, Italy - an art theft at the home of <sup>(famed, wealthy)</sup> U.S. art

patron Peggy Guggenheim; who returned from a brief visit to London - to discover that burglars had raided her Thirteen Million Dollar art collection. This consisting mainly of the works of modern masters - such as Picasso, Joan Miro, Salvador Dali.

After a quick check though - Miss Guggenheim assessing her loss as "something very minimal." Adding that the burglars - "just picked some very small works." Miss Guggenheim observing: "They were obviously amateurs. Unless, of course - they were simply looking for old masters.

# HONOLULU

The winner of the Twenty-Second Pillsbury Bake

Off - held this year in Honolulu - Mrs. Pearl Hall of  
Snohomish, Washington; who walked off with the Twenty-Five  
Grand grand prize - thanks to a little creation called the  
"Pecan Pie Surprise Bar." <sup>Warren -</sup> Mrs. Hall saying she dreamed  
it up - while working as a part-time cake decorator. ~~Some~~  
~~cookiet~~

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a visit today from Mayor J.P.

"Rory" Liddy of Limerick, Ireland; who was paying a return call - for that visit last fall from President Nixon. "Rory"

Liddy bringing along with him - as a gift for the President

- two bottles of Irish whiskey. Mr. Nixon observing with

a smile: "I've heard some say it's all poison - but others

say there isn't any bad Irish whiskey." And later on, <sup>at the</sup> ~~the~~

~~White House~~ <sup>White House will there be</sup> a toast to continuing Irish-American friendship?

As we say s-l-u-t-m.