

WHITE HOUSE

Wed. Dec. 4 - 68.

The White House - Averell Harriman ~~lays it on the~~
~~line.~~ ^{said} ~~Asserting~~ today that the arrival of South Vietnamese
delegates in Paris - could signal the start of substantive
peace talks. Adding, however, there can be no real progress
toward peace - until all North Vietnamese troops are
withdrawn from that demilitarized zone - until the shelling
of South Vietnamese cities has stopped completely. Indeed,
that's why we stopped the bombing - said he.

Harriman's remarks - following a conference with
President Johnson and his Cabinet. The chief U.S. peace
negotiator later flying on to New York - to confer with
President-elect Nixon.

SAIGON FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

~~More on the peace talks~~ ^{on} from Saigon, ~~whose~~ South

Vietnamese President Thieu denied ~~again~~ any intent to stall at Paris pending a change of Administration in

Washington. ~~Reports to the contrary~~ - "Completely false" -

said he. Adding: "We have a war - we would like to end

^{it - and} ~~that~~ we do not intend to wait for President Nixon or

anyone else."

Meanwhile, the fighting goes on - including a deadly ambush today near Saigon. Enemy forces killing and wounding more than a hundred Americans - marking the worst setback for our side in at least two months.

CHICAGO

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In the Windy City - Chicago - that weekend "Walker Report" is still front-page news today. With Chief Federal Judge William Campbell of the Chicago District - latest to question the findings of the riot study. Also - the qualifications of the man who compiled it. Also - the reasons behind it.

The "Walker Report" - "just the report of one individual" - said Judge Campbell. Adding that its author's attributes - high as they are - do not seem to "qualify him in the field of criminal investigation." Perhaps worst of all, the "Walker Report" covers "only in part" - said the Judge - matters that his own special grand jury "is now going into fully." Suggesting the possibility - of an attempt at undue influence.


Conclusion - said Judge Campbell - the grand jury "might well look into the timing and motivation" - of the "Walker Report" itself.

NEW YORK

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The man who will serve as chief economic adviser in the upcoming Nixon Administration: Dr. Paul McCracken of the University of Michigan - who also served on the President's Council of Economic Advisers during the Eisenhower years. In announcing the appointment today - ~~here~~ in New York - Richard Nixon calling Dr. McCracken a "centerist - a man who is pragmatic in his economics" - whatever that means.

The President-elect also met today - with Chairman Wilbur Mills of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee; who will probably be his chief unofficial economic adviser - like it or not. Both men said to have agreed that the current ten per cent tax surcharge - should end as scheduled next June, if at all possible.



ADD NEW YORK

A later development: Richard Nixon asks Earl Warren to stay on as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court - at least, until completion of the present term in June. Warren's reply - "I'll be glad to."

JERUSALEM

In the tense Mideast - Israel strikes back.

Launching a series of "punitive" air raids today - against alleged Iraqi positions in Jordan. An attempt - said Jerusalem - "to impress upon the Iraqis - that they cannot attack Israeli settlements and escape punishment."

At the United Nations in New York - Jordan promptly protesting the Israeli raids to the U.N. Security Council. For some reason though - failing to ask for an emergency meeting of that body.

VATICAN

9

At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul delivers a blistering attack on liberal theologians. Asserting that many today are trying to reshape the word of God according to their own thinking - regardless of Church doctrine. Warning that should they succeed - faith would disintegrate.

The Pontiff going on to say that bishops and priests, therefore, "must give faithful testimony - at any cost - to the teaching authority of the Church." "On this point" - said he - "the Catholic Church is jealous, stern, demanding, dogmatic - it does not compromise - it would not."

PRAGUE

A kind of ^Ppeople-to-people program - Soviet-style - is reported today from Prague. Delegates from Russian women and youth groups - reportedly flooding the Czech capital and fanning out into the countryside, ~~Attempting~~ to persuade their Czech counterparts - that what's good for Russia is also good for Czechoslovakia, recent differences notwithstanding.

MONTPELIER

According to the dictionary a triangle is a configuration calling for three sides. But what if two of the sides have already called it quits? Still a triangle - says the Vermont Supreme Court - at least, insofar as marriage is concerned. The court thereby ordering a new trial - in an alienation of affections case; a case in which the "other woman" was earlier acquitted - on grounds that the husband and wife in question no longer loved each other anyway.

It matters not - said the Supreme Court. Adding: "Even if there is no affection between a husband and his wife - another person has no right to cut off all chance of its springing up in the future." Or as the poet once said - "hope springs eternal."

TRAPANI FOLLOW BIRMINGHAM

For Sicily - another historic first today. In the city of Trapani - twenty-year-old Franca Viola marrying the man of her choice - a local accountant. Successfully defying Sicily's centuries-old "code of the hills" - which says that a girl must marry any man who abducts her.

As you may recall - Franca not only refused to marry the man who abducted her - she had him sent to prison. *In so*

doing Drawing the plaudits of business and political leaders -

among them, Italian President Giuseppe Saragat - who

joined in sending gifts and congratulations today. As

once again - ^(ah-mor-ay) amore conquers all. *You agree, Warren?*

BOSTON

Up at Boston - the "Battle of New Orleans" - circa
Sixty-Eight. Led by Major General Joseph Ambrose -
Adjutant General of Massachusetts; who is attempting to
put an end to ~~the~~ ^{that} state's annual observance - of Andrew
Jackson's famous victory over the British in Eighteen-
Fifteen. Reason - said he - it's an "unnecessary" waste
of "a lot of time and state money;" especially ~~a~~ ^{the} twenty-one
gun salute - which only serves to confuse and frighten local
residents. That's his side of it.

Reverse side - from New Orleans. Where Mayor
Victory ~~Shiro~~ ^{fired} ~~launched~~ a broadside * at those "who would
low-rate American tradition" - as he put it. After all -
said Mayor ~~Shiro~~ - "we in New Orleans are proud of the
Boston tea party."