

Tuesday - Apr. 13 - '71

The White House - another "inflation alert" today - as promised last week. The President's Council of Economic Advisors - taking issue with a number of recent fiscal developments, including increased freight rates in the railroad and railroad industries, - higher costs for lumber, fast climbing meat prices, also, fat pay hikes for construction workers and taxi drivers.

However, the Council saving its biggest guns for a recent contract settlement in the can industries, where the United Steel workers won a nine percent increase in wages and benefits - in each of the next three years. The Council stating that this will not help at all - in administration efforts aimed at ending inflation. Therefore, urging the steel workers to exercise utmost restraint in upcoming contract talks with the basic steel industry. Or the result could be - we are told - far reaching and damaging effects throughout the economy.

PEKING

At Peking's giant indoor sports arena - before a cheering crowd of some twenty thousand - East meets West. Members of that touring U.S. table tennis team - engaging in their first round of "friendly" matches with Red Chinese players. In the women's division - a five to four victory for China; in the men's division - five to three. It's Red China's national game - and our players were not overwhelmed.

Next on the agenda - a visit with Red China's Premier Chou En-Lai.

FIRE BASE SIX

In Vietnam - up near the Laotian border - an estimated six thousand Vietnamese reinforcements were rushed today to the aid of beleaguered Fire Base Six. One unit fighting its way in from the North - another from the South; with the help of a U.S. bombing campaign - said to be the heaviest one day operation in eight months. Military sources adding that many of the newly arrived troops - are hardened veterans of that recent Laos offensive.

PENTAGON

Here at home - the Pentagon - Defense Secretary Laird discusses future American policy - with regard to Southeast Asia; saying the U.S. will maintain air and naval forces there - perhaps indefinitely. And this - said he - in keeping with the U.S. "strategy of realistic deterrence."

Laird stressing, however, that America's ground combat role in Vietnam - will end as of this summer. After which - said he - "we should not make the mistake - of committing massive manpower to that part of the world." And he added; "military assistance - yes; American ground troops - manpower - no."

WASHINGTON

Washington again - a report that the U.S. is planning an underground nuclear explosion - almost five times more powerful than any we've ever detonated before. Projected date - according to newspaper accounts - early October. Site - Alaska's Amchatka Island - out near the tip of the stormy Aleutians. And this said to be part of a testing program - in connection with the development of a new Spartan anti-balistic missile. All of which has caused quite a stir - up there in the earthquake conscious Far North.

As for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission - it admits that such an explosion is under consideration. A spokesman adding, however, that a final decision - yes or no - has not been made.

Elsewhere on the domestic front - an

4 *investigation into the use - on public lands - of dune
buggies, snowmobiles, trail bikes and so on. This - by
order of Interior Secretary Rogers Morton; who says he
is "deeply concerned" - that such recreational vehicles may
be causing irreparable damage; especially in desert lands
- dune area - and to elk and deer wintering yards.*

*Morton adding that indiscriminate abuse of these "fragile
public refuges and wild areas -- must be stopped."*

JERUSALEM - CAIRO

From the Middle East - Jerusalem - comes a report that Israel has now completed a draft response - to the latest Egyptian peace move; a response said to call for the limited withdrawal of Israeli troops from the East bank of the Suez Canal. Israeli sources adding that the next step - will probably be an attempt to win Washington approval.

At the same time though - Cairo is saying peace efforts have now reached a dead-end. A spokesman adding that the present Arab-Israeli impasse - is fast approaching "the moment of an inevitable military confrontation."

VIENNA

5 At today's scheduled SALT talks in Vienna -
a notable absence; with the Chief Russian negotiator -
Vladimir Semenov - still in Moscow conferring with
Kremlin leaders. This in the wake of the Soviet's
twenty-fourth Communist Party Congress - to which
Semenov was a delegate. It also is an indication, maybe
that he is receiving new instructions.

52 In the meantime - Warren - East and West
technical experts are discussing ways and means of
improving the present "Hot Line" - between Moscow and
6 Washington. And may that line never get too hot!

FLORENCE

At Florence, Italy - where fall and winter showings are now underway - we hear of a new "manish look;" including gray knit jodphurs and weskits with matching gray polo coats - also, broad-brimmed felt hats. From Giovanna Serragamo, also boy's suits with knee length pleated skirts and long jackets. And from Tendresse - among other things - an outfit said to consist of baggy paratrooper pants worn with a knit top.

As for shoes - many with ankle straps reminiscent of World War Two - also, a surprising number of Chinese clogs. With those of Ken Scott built so high, in fact - that his models can barely get around. Was there a method to this madness? Mebbe! For one of the girls did fall; landing right in the arms of a nearby male.