

Tuesday, January 30, 1973

WATERGATE

A verdict of guilty in that Watergate bugging trial.

G. Gordon Liddy and James McCord Jr. convicted on fourteen counts of burglary, conspiracy, bugging and wire tapping; as you know, all in connection with a break-in last July - at Democratic National Headquarters.

Liddy now facing a maximum sentence of up to forty years in jail; McCord - up to sixty years. With five other defendants who earlier pleaded guilty also still to be sentenced.

PENTAGON

Back from the dead - Marine Private Ronald Ridgeway of Houston Texas; officially listed as killed in action - nearly five years ago; his body or at least, a body shipped to the U.S. for burial. Except that North Vietnam now discloses - he is alive and well; a prisoner of war all this time - soon to return home to his family and friends.

Another incredible war story. And one that will raise the hopes - no doubt of many who are still waiting and praying.

HOUSTON FOLLOW PENTAGON

Private Ridgeway's mother - Mrs. Mildred Ridgeway perhaps typical of this valiant breed. When informed that her son was still alive - Mrs. Ridgeway insisting that she "never felt he was dead." "They sent me a notice he was dead" - said she; "I had to follow through - I had to attend the funeral - but I didn't believe them -- I had to assume that he was alive."

~~Mrs. Ridgeway~~ Mrs. Ridgeway also reported that when a ~~man~~ marine officer called to tell her the news he didn't get a chance. "I told him" said she - "this is about my son - he's alive, isn't he?" Mrs. Ridgeway adding: "Now, I just want to see him with my own eyes."

PRISONERS FOLLOW HOUSTON

In another development - the Pentagon disclosed today that two marines thought to be deserters have also shown up on the P O W list, one -- Private Earl Weatherman -- who is said to have died in ~~xxxx~~ captivity. But the other - Private Frederick Elbert -- alive and well; and he, too, -- will soon be coming home.

SAIGON FOLLOW PRISONERS

Meanwhile in Vietnam - the third day of the cease fire with ground fighting continuing on several fronts. The start of an international peace keeping operation - still stalled by petty controversy. All of which was taken into account by Vice President Agnew on his arrival today in Saigon.

"Not unexpectedly" - said he - "the establishment of smooth working cease fire machinery - has already struck several procedural snags." "These are not surprising" - he continued - "when one considers the long conflict, the suspicion and the animosity that has divided the parties in the past;" also, "the complexity of moving from a period of military struggle - to political competition."

Agnew going on to say: "I am confident these obstacles can be overcome." Adding: "At this delicate stage, it will certainly be a contribution to the cause of peace if all the parties show patience and a positive attitude."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW SAIGON

Here at home again - at the White House - President Nixon was meeting with South Vietnamese Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam. With Henry Kissinger - sitting in. This - according to press Secretary Ziegler was - a "consultation on continuing our relationship in the postwar period."

Changing gears somewhat - Ziegler also commented today reported differences between the President and Doctor Kissinger - over Vietnam policy. Ziegler stating flatly: "There was no disagreement - on content or the approach general or specific."

Was this also true of the conduct of negotiations?

"Absolutely" - said Ziegler. "Dr. Kissinger and the President - were totally in line" he continued - adding: "Besides - he works for the President."

SAN ANTONIO

A postscript on the recent death of L B J comes from Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio. Four doctors who treated the former President for heart trouble reporting that coronary by-pass surgery had been considered but it was finally ruled out ~~they~~ they ~~may~~ said because of extensive heart damage; plus a serious intestinal disorder previously undisclosed. The doctors adding - in effect - that L B J was well aware the end was near - stressing that "he endured his difficulties with courage - and resolved to enjoy life as much as conditions permitted."

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All this - in a statement made public today with family approval. An attempt - we are told - "to clarify the events" prior to death. An aide adding that it was also an attempt - to reaffirm L B J's "passionate commitment to more research in combating our major health enemies."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the naming of a U S crew -- for ~~that~~ that forthcoming U S ~~and~~ Russian joint space flight. The American team consisting of Veteran Astronaut Tom Stafford, Rookie Van Brand and Donald "Deke" Slayton, who is also a rookie in a way. Deke Slayton one of the original Mercury Seven Astronauts - grounded more than a decade ago because of a heart murmur ^{— but} staying in the program as chief of the astronauts till he was finally permitted to fly again last year. And now - at age forty-eight - the chance he's been waiting for.

All three men ^{are} expected to take part in joint training exercises - beginning next fall in the Soviet Union. The actual flight set for two years hence.

COMMERCE

From the U S Commerce Department - a
final tabulation on the nation's leading economic
indicators for the ^{Final} ~~last~~ quarter of last year. These
said to show a thumping increase -- of four-and-a-half
percent; even higher ~~than~~ than originally thought. In
the words of the Commerce Department's chief
economist, Peter Manus - the "strongest showing in
almost thirteen years." Further suggesting - said
he - "that the U S economy will continue to expand
rapidly throughout this year."

PRESIDENT FOLLOW COMMERCE

President Nixon expressed much the same view - and then some -- in his annual economic message just released tonight. The President observing that except for ~~me~~ a few trouble spots - Nineteen Seventy Two was - "all in all, a very good year." Adding that Nineteen Seventy Three - "can be a great year." This - said he - assuming that Congress will cooperate by holding the line on federal spending.

SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake City's bid to host the Nineteen Seventy-Six Winter Olympics has all but gone down the drain. Senators Bennett and Moss of Utah - sending a letter to Salt Lake's Mayor Garn; telling of a futile search for federal funds in order to meet a Sunday deadline. Coming to the conclusion - "with regret" that no federal money is or can be available in time." This following a statement from Salt Lake officials - that they could not host the games without federal funding.

NEW YORK

With the advent of the new computer-age - a related field has also taken on increased importance; namely, "computer security." And the chairman of Computer audit systems - one of the leading practitioners - telling all about it today in New York. Joseph Wasserman observing that computers are threatened on all sides - by fire, floods, theft embezzlement, inefficiency, industrial espionage - indeed any number of pitfalls.

"We've seen many cases" said he - "where employees fall behind in their programming schedules and then literally wash their invoices down the drain." The weirdest of all thought - a series of unexplained breakdowns finally traced to a head computer operator; a man who was secretly placing a piece of metal against the computer's circuitry - thereby shorting it out. Why? Because, Bill, he "just didn't like computers."

WEED PATCH

From Weed Patch, California the story of a brash young man who walked into a local grocery store brandishing a knife. To the owner - Cruz Zaragoza, age eight-one he said: "Gimme your money." Whereupon Zaragoza whipped out a "forty-five." "Do you really want the money?" said he. The youth replying, no - as he raced out the door.