

WAGES

Tues, Apr. 17-73,

A study of factory wages in the free world's major industrial countries -- is reported today from the Federal Reserve Bank Board in Washington.

At the bottom end of the scale: The French factory worker who earns less than a buck an hour; ninety-five cents to be exact. Next in line - Italians - at a buck fourteen an hour. Japanese - ~~about a buck~~ a buck-twenty-six - the British - ^{one} ~~a buck~~ seventy-one and the West German a ^{dollar -} ~~buck~~ ninety-one. All of which are topped of course, ^{here in} ~~by~~ the U S -where the average factory wage is three-fifty-seven an hour.

By the way, one of the purposes of this study - an attempt to refute charges that Japan's economy is based on, quote, "low cost coolie type labor." A spokesman for the ^{Federal Reserve Board} ~~Fed~~ observing that, indeed, Japanese wages are now climbing so fast - they could well match U S wages in another decade.

PENTAGON

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Elliott Richardson ~~front and center~~ today ^{was} attempting to explain the logic in the planned closing of forty military bases and cut backs in two-hundred-and-thirty four more around the country.

Richardson saying: "These proper, prudent base-realignments - will save American tax payers billions of dollars." And he added: "Despite the hardship these actions will cause to some - in the long run - they are necessary to maintain an efficient, effective modern military establishment. And consequently - a strong national defense benefiting all Americans."

HEALTH

Letters from the U S Department of Health,

~~Education~~ Education and Welfare - went out today to

nearly two hundred school districts in sixteen states;

~~also~~ letters demanding an immediate end to alleged

school segregation even if it means forced bussing.

Peter Holmes of H E W saying: "The Department has

no alternative but to obey the requirements placed

on us" by the federal courts.

UNITED NATIONS

Our man at the U N - in effect, a man on a tight rope today. U S Ambassador John Scali attempting to maintain an even balance between Israel and its Arab ~~neighbors~~ neighbors saying the U S opposes terror and violence - from any source; further, urging the U N Security Council - to move from an assessment of blame to the construction of peace in the Middle East. At the same time- a report that Scali has quietly passed the word: The U S will veto - if necessary - any "one-sided" resolution condemning Israel.

WHITE HOUSE

Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was welcomed to the White House today with full military and civilian honors; including a nineteen gun salute - and the playing of both the U S and Italian National Anthems.

President Nixon telling his guest - "I am sure it will some day be recorded that Italy and the U S on this occasion - not only renewed an old friendship but began a new relationship.

A relationship - not only between the U S and Italy - but ~~between~~ between the U S and the new Europe;" one that can "bring a better life to all our people."

In response - Andreotti telling the President: "We ~~rejoiced~~ rejoiced on the other side of the ~~Atlantic~~ Atlantic at your re-election." Adding that the President's "great prestige in both East

and West - has contributed greatly to world peace.

He also cheered the appointment ~~too~~ of Italian-American

John Volpe - as the new U S ~~as~~ Ambassador to Italy.

This - said he - "a moral victory for the millions

of Italians who have come to ~~the~~ America for more

than a century - to find a job here."

WOUNDED KNEE

^Q
~~The~~ second battle of Wounded Knee was marked by a gun ~~and~~ battle today between militant Indians and the surrounding federal officers. The clash follow^{ed}~~ing~~ an air drop of supplies by three unidentified aircraft. ~~But~~ When an F B I helicopter went in to investigate - Indian rifle men ~~was~~ opening fire. The ensuing shoot-out quickly spreading to three nearby road blocks. As for casualties - on the government side, none. But six ~~authorities~~ of the occupiers of Wounded Knee ^{are} said to have been wounded - at least one - suffering a severe head wound. He was later driven to a road block and then rushed by helicopter to a hospital in neighboring ~~Dakota~~ Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

NEW DELHI

As promised - at New Delhi - a joint
communique today marking the completion of four days
of talks between Indian[/]and Bangladesh officials.

The two victors in that brief war of more than a
year ago offering to repatriate an estimated ninety
thousand Pakistani prisoners of war, ^e on ~~the~~ condition
though that the Pakistanis also ~~agree~~ agree to an
exchange involving an additional half million displaced
persons. An Indian official adding - "this is a take
it or leave it offer."

BEIRUT FOLLOW U N

Beirut - an attempted disclaimer ^{came} today
from the Lebanese Army. An official statement saying
the Army was not told ~~but~~ of the ^{at} Israeli raid last
week on Beirut - until it was all over. ~~And the~~
~~main reason we are told~~ ^{Why?} ~~because~~ because police
believed it was merely a dispute between Palestinians.
The Army adding that such disputes - were "not
unusual".

LONDON

Here's one - proof positive it can be done. British ~~Env~~ Environment Minister Geoffrey Rippon - telling of a ten year drive to clean up London. Total cost - about a billion; but the results ~~appear~~ apparently well worth it."

Rippon reporting that air pollution has been cut by fifty percent. Adding that the Thames is now so clean it supports fifty ~~sorts~~ species of fish where once there were none. And coming next - said he - a crack down on excessive ~~an~~ noise and the discharge of industrial wastes into the sea.

COMMONS

In the British House of Commons - a blast today at conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath; for ~~just~~ taking delivery on a new yacht - valued at more than a hundred thousand bucks. Laborite Joe Ashton saying: "This was a totally insensitive act." Adding that coming as it does "at a time of freeze and squeeze" it can only "encourage class warfare." Gentlemen yachtsmen ~~Heath~~ Heath refusing however, to defend his expenditure. Instead saying: "I have always been opposed to class warfare and I don't believe anything I have done has ever ~~now~~ contributed to it." He also observed: "When you can only descend to personalities instead of argument on ^{the} merits of a case - it shows how little case you have."

GLASS

London again - the story of glass

worker William Deacon - age thirty six; who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in the murder of his brother-in-law, then released last week because of legal errors. ^{He's} now back in court again - with a rather strange request. ~~William~~ William Deacon requesting a return to prison - for a period of at least two weeks. Why? Because - said he - "I set myself the task of spending the next few ~~years~~ years working on the stained glass in the prison church." And he added: "I I can go back for a fortnight - I can teach a ^{certain} long-term prisoner how to ~~manage~~ carry on."

CLARK

On^e the of the ~~Abdullah~~ Navy Chaplains assigned to "Operation Homecoming" at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, L T. Commander Alex Aronis, ~~who~~ tells today - of some of his conversations with returned P O W's.

One man reporting the receipt of several pages from the Bible disguised as padding in a package from home. This leading to a rather heated exchange when his cell mate inadvertently used one of the pages to ~~smoke~~ roll a cigarette. The returned prisoner saying "I would have had a ~~much~~ hard time being christian to the man who smoked up my new testiment .

Commander Aronis also ~~quoted~~ quotes a high ranking officer as telling him: "You know, Chaplain - I wouldn't consider myself an unusually religious man but I want to tell you - without God, I would not have been able to survive."