

At Geneva - the threat of last minute walkouts by both sides; finally settled by individual tables - discreetly separated by neutrals; and then at last, ^{the} Arab and Israeli negotiators ^{were} ~~the~~ face to face.

The Geneva conference on the Middle East - getting under way. The formal opening ^{was} ~~the~~ followed by an address from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the one man more responsible than any other for bringing them all together. ^R "The shadow of war - still hangs over the Middle East" said he. Adding: "Either we begin today the process of correcting the conditions which produced that conflict - or we doom untold tens of thousands to travail, sorrow and further ~~inconclusive~~ inconclusive bloodshed."

Next - the delegates from Egypt and Jordan - demanding total Israeli withdrawal ^{from} ~~from~~ all occupied ~~Arab~~ territory; along with a restoration of Arab

sovereignty - over East Jerusalem. Also, the right of the Palestinians - to exercise their own powers of self-determination.

The final speaker - Israel's Abba Eban accusing the Arabs of "savage treatment" - of Israeli ~~prisoners~~ prisoners of war. Abba Eban saying: "surely the ~~time~~ time has come to banish the savageness which has marked the treatment of Israelis

This was followed by in Arab hands." ~~whereupon~~ a brief rejoinder from Egypt's Ismail Sahmy accusing Eban of "trying to belittle the intelligence" of the negotiators - "by talking to the gallery."

Not a very auspicious beginning perhaps - but still a ~~an~~ beginning, and they will meet again - tomorrow. That in itself - holding forth, ^{some faint} ~~the best~~ hope, ~~promises we've had in years.~~

BETHLEHEM

"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem - how still

we see thee lie." So goes the Christmas carol -

and so it goes tonight in the real Bethlehem, ~~the~~

~~Israeli occupied Jordan.~~ Instead of the normal

ten thousand or so Christmas pilgrims - only a

handful so far showing up. And their main concern -

^{was}
~~today, at least~~ ^λ said to be Geneva even more than
Christmas.

WHITE HOUSE

From The White House ^{camp} a denial today that President Nixon was ever aware - that ^{any} White House ~~had~~ "enemies list" had ^{ever} been sent to the Internal Revenue Service. Spokesman Gerald Warren saying: "If the President had been aware of it - it would not have ~~been~~ been submitted."

Warren also reporting a hitch - in "operation candor," ~~said~~ Saying the ~~Nixon~~ Administration will be unable to deliver any additional "white papers" - till after Christmas. The main reason - ~~said he~~ - the Senate ~~was~~ Watergate Committee's new demand - for hundreds of tapes, documents, and other materials. Warren indicating that the White House - and possibly the President himself - would have "something to say about this extraordinary request later."

CURTIS

**More on the same - from Senator Curtis
of Nebraska; who charged today that the committee's
demand~~s~~ has every earmark of a witch hunt. "There
isn't a court in the land" said he - "that wouldn't
recall such a subpoena. "**

CALLEY

The conviction of Lt. William Calley for
the My Lai massacre
~~for killing twenty-two at My Lai~~ *Λ* was upheld today
by the nation's highest military tribunal. The U S
Court of Military Appeals - also confirming Calley's
sentence of twenty years. ~~With~~ Calley's defense team
is *Λ* now expected to pursue ~~about~~ his case in civilian
courts. ~~As you know though,~~ President Nixon has
said when all is done - he alone will review the
verdict.

ENERGY

Energy Czar William Simon said today he was "tremendously impressed" - with public willingness to help conserve energy. "Everybody is attempting to do their thing - and responding in a patriotic fashion"-- said he. Adding: "We would not hesitate to put gasoline rationing into effect -- but it is what we consider a last resort."

The decision on that - he continued ^{will} not ~~to~~ be made at least till next week.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill ~~there was~~ a rush to adjournment today suddenly halted by a Senate filibuster - on the terms of an energy bill. And now - they're re-writing the whole thing. But one of the bills they did pass - a new two step, eleven percent increase in Social Security benefits.

HUMPHREY

Senator Huber/Humphrey disclosed tonight that he, too, took a sizeable tax deduction - on the contribution of his Vice Presidential papers. The Humphrey documents- valued at nearly two hundred thousand. Ending up - in the Minnesota Historical Society. They were ~~now~~ assessed, incidentally - by the same man who ~~also~~ assessed President Nixon's ~~papers~~ official papers.

MADRID

Vice President Gerald Ford ^{is} ~~arrived today~~
in Madrid - on his first foreign trip ~~in his new~~
~~job.~~ ^{as} ~~The~~ Vice President, ^{there to} ~~attending~~ the funeral of
Spanish Prime Minister ~~Juan~~ Luis Carrero Blanco -
then meeting with Generalissimo Franco and Crown
Prince Juan Carlos.

~~Incidentally, a ^Q ~~statement~~ said to have~~
come from a Basque separatist ~~movement~~ movement
claiming ^S ~~credit~~ "credit" for Carrers's assassination.

But the President of the Basque government in exile
Jesus Maria Leizola ~~was quoted as saying~~ ^S "I do
not believe it."

SOYUZ

Russia's Soyuz Three cosmonauts - who were earlier strangely silent have now been heard from again. Valentin Lebedev and Pyotr Klimuk - beaming back a TV show to Russian viewers. Lebedev saying: "Our task today was to explore the ultra-violet range of the stars - and we fulfilled it." He also reassured the fearful - saying: "We are quite all right."

SAN FRANCISCO

The oldest practicing physician in California

- Dr. Franklin Cookinham of San Francisco; at age ninety-one - a physician nearly ~~over~~ sixty years and ~~he is~~ still making house calls.

"Why haven't I retired?" says Dr.

Cookinham. "To what! I haven't seen anything else

to do - I haven't any hobbies - so why not work."

The good doctor ~~adds~~ adding that "many a man

is at his very best" at the normal retirement age

of sixty-five. For such a man to retire - said he -

"why, that's a crime."

LOUISIANA

Eighty two year old Paul Stark of

Louisiana, Missouri - one of the national leaders

of the U S Victory Garden movement during World

War Two. ~~And what~~ with prices the way they are -

~~he's~~ ^{is} now attempting to revive the concept.

~~Paul~~ Stark ~~today~~ appealing to Americans - to "grow

your own food to ~~fight~~ fight inflation."

SPRINGFIELD CORPUS CHRISTI

The first day of winter in the great heart-
land of America - much the same as the last day of
autumn: snowy and cold. From Colorado to Indiana -
and as far south as Georgia and Alabama. The mercury
hit hitting a record seventeen below - at Springfield,
Illinois. Another record - only eighteen above ^{way down at} ~~at~~
Corpus Christi, Texas. With a second major storm
now said to be sweeping out of the northern Rockies.

~~At the same time - flood warnings in New~~

In New

England; ~~where~~ a ~~constant~~ rain of more than an inch

-- ~~is~~ rapidly ~~mixing with~~ melting ^{ed the} snow, ^e sending

countless rivers and streams - spilling over their
banks.

LONDON

*Just in time for Christmas - a doll auction -
today at Southeby's of London. And the biggest sale
-- a doll made about two hundred years ago - the
winning bid coming from an anonymous private
collector who shelled out two thousand six hundred
and forty-five bucks. According to Southeby's,
a record price - for a doll at auction.*

*Bill what would you do for, I
mean, pay for a doll?*

TRAVEL

Far and wide
Record crowds of holiday travellers ~~were~~ were

jamming their way today - into busses, airliners and

trains, *for the start* ~~clear across the nation. The start~~ of a long

Christmas weekend - coinciding with the start of

Christmas school vacations for many. The "home

for the holiday" crowd *problem more more complicated* ~~made even worse this year -~~
than usual by

~~by an influx of new~~ travelers who normally would *be* ~~have~~

ing used their cars. I hope you have all solved this -
and s-l-Mon.

Indeed, a number of travel managers -
saying they're throwing away their schedules. Instead
using whatever equipment they can get as soon as
possible - in an attempt to deal with the sudden
surge in business.