

Monday, March 12, 1973

WHITE HOUSE

From the White House a written statement today spelling out the President's stand on "executive privilege." President Nixon saying: "A President must be able to place absolute confidence in the advice and assistance offered by members of his staff. Adding that "staff members must not be inhibited - by the possibility that their advice and assistance will ever become a matter of public debate." Therefore asserting that no "member or former member of the President's personal staff - shall be required to testify before Congress."

This - the President continued is the same policy followed by all Presidents - dating back to George Washington; a policy that must be followed said he - "to ensure the effective discharge of executive responsibility."

HEARING

Washington again - the start of hearings today on the auto industry's request for a one-year extension of present auto emission standards. This in place of the new standards - scheduled to take effect in Nineteen seventy-five.

Lead off witness - General Motors Vice President Ernest Starkman. G M "does not now have nor ~~do~~ do we know of" said he - "any effective control technology to meet the standards for mass production ~~for~~ ^{for} nineteen seventy-five cars." Starkman adding that without an extension - "we cannot justify the enormous risk - we cannot continue to prepare and to commit resources" for Nineteen Seventy-five production.

BRUSSELS

The U.S. dollar gained in strength today - on the free money markets of Europe. This following a pre-dawn decision - by six of the nine Common Market countries; a decision to float their currencies free of the dollar - for the first time in twenty-nine years.

At the same time - in Brussels there was a meeting of representatives of the world's fourteen richest nations. Treasury Under Secretary Volcker, there for the U.S. calling the joint "float" in the Common Market - "one ingredient - that could contribute to monetary security." Asked what else was needed - Volcker saying ah "that's what we're talking about here."

BERMUDA

Police in Bermuda were given special powers today to prevent anyone from leaving the island without permission. They were also authorized to hold suspects up to four days - without an official charge or warrant. Both of these actions - following the declaration of ^a~~the~~ state ^{of} emergency; ~~as you know~~, ^{This} the result of the assassination of Bermuda's governor Sir Richard Sharples and his aide de camp. As to who did it - that remains a big question. Police were detaining several people for questioning today - but making no arrests. A spokesman ~~says~~ saying only - the case "is still very much an open matter."

SIoux FALLS

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A new federal grand jury was convened today at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Its principal task - that of sorting out the continuing siege at Wounded Knee. Officials saying the Grand Jury's ~~deliberations~~ deliberations -- could lead to the indictment and arrest of several members of the militant American Indian ~~movement~~ movement. Meanwhile Indian leaders at Wounded Knee itself were breaking off talks with Justice Department officials. ^{They were} claiming that Wounded Knee no longer "recognizes" the U S. This in keeping with the Indians previous claim - that Wounded Knee is now a sovereign nation. As you may have heard - they have even applied for U N membership.

HANOI

From Hanoi - by way of Saigon - comes today another list of American POW's one-hundred-and-eight ~~men~~ in all -- to be set free ~~by~~ this Wednesday. Among ~~the names~~ them -- Lt. Commander John S. McCain the Third, whose father was Commander of U S forces in the Pacific at the height of the Vietnam War. The Viet Cong have also promised for tomorrow - an additional list of about thirty, ~~men~~. And more than likely - these, too, will be ^{heading for} ~~be heading for~~ home ~~by~~ Wednesday. The full completion of Operation Home coming, if all goes well - ~~now~~ just two weeks off.

HONG KONG

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For the first time in more than twenty years John Downey is a free man tonight. The one-time C I A agent -- crossing into Hong Kong immediately following his release by the Red Chinese; flying directly to Clark Air Force base in the Philippines where he was met by a brother; and then on to the U S - to see his ailing mother. Along the way - a brief statement -- Downey telling reporters:

"I just wanted to say - how grateful I was for being released." Adding: "I appreciate the Chinese government for letting me go and President Nixon for his efforts on my behalf." Downey concluding by saying: "I'm very pleased to be out" - and now "I'm very anxious to see my mother."

NEW DELHI

At New Delhi this past weekend ^{there was} a mass religious ceremony; with thousands of Hindu untouchables converting to Buddhism; all under the auspices of the Dalai Lama - the fabled God King of Tibet.

A few of the converts - later explaining their motivation. One - a young laborer - saying: "As Hindu untouchables we have ~~been~~ been deprived - we have been insulted - we have been treated unjustly." Adding: "We were nothing under Hinduism - now we can experience a change - we can transform ourselves." [¶] Another observing that "equality is a human right - and this is what Buddhism offers."

~~By the way,~~ The crowds attending the ceremony included ^{ed a gaggle} ~~a group~~ of young Americans; mostly self-proclaimed "freaks." ~~or~~ Hippies who ~~had~~ had been lured by the presence of the Dalai Lama. One of the group saying: "We wouldn't miss a chance to

see a great soul like him." The Dalai Lama ~~to~~ said he
radiat^{ed}~~ing~~ so much love - so much incredible love
~~he added~~ - "you can just ~~to~~ pick up the vibration."

WILMINGTON

One of the all-time greats of baseball - and an old friend of mine as well as to so many Americans, passed away today at Wilmington, Delaware. Frankie Frisch - the famed "Fordham Flash" - so named - because he captained the baseball, football and basketball teams at Fordham University. On graduation - the talented Frankie going directly to the old New York Giants. He was a star second and third baseman on the first National League team to win four ~~titles~~^{pennants} in a row, at New York. Later at St. Louis he failed to bat over three hundred only once in his long, spectacular career. He later managed the fabled "Gas House Gang" to World Series triumph in Nineteen-Thirty-Four. A Hall of Famer - of course. And now - the final out - the result of an auto accident. Frankie Frisch age seventy-five.

LONDON

Question: Where do babies come from? Some answers to that are "in a new book the title of which is "Goodbye to the Stork;" published today in London. Author Jill Kenner - quoting replies of British ten and eleven year olds. Some saying they were brought by the stork, or were found under a gooseberry bush or came in the doctors black bag. Said one youngster: "I was baked in an oven." The longer you're baked - he added - the darker your skin. Said another child: "I was found in a car park." Bill - Still another saying simply: "I came with the laundry."

MOSCOW

We get a look at love and marriage, Russian style, today from the Communist Youth League newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda. Soviet Social Scientist Vaschyslav Svesenko says Russian newlyweds sometimes face a "torturous" situation; the moreso - said he - in that they are completely unprepared - for quote "the drastic adjustments required of married life." All of which he blamed on a complete lack of pre-marital counsel.