

*Fri., March 9, 1973*

**WHITE HOUSE**

*For C I A John Downey - a prisoner of the Red Chinese for more than twenty years now - freedom at last. The announcement - coming today from the White House. This was ordered - we are told - by Red China's Premier Chou En Lai as a result of a personal request made by President Nixon. This based in part - on the fact that Downey's mother is seriously ill. The prisoner to be delivered Monday - at Red China's border crossing at Hong Kong.*

*At the same time - Peking also agreeing to release - two downed Fliers from the war in Vietnam. These - Navy Lieutenant Commander Robert Flynn - and Air Force Major Philip Smith; to be set free - next Thursday.*

*The White House adding: "President Nixon has expressed his "personal appreciation - to the government of the Peoples Republic of China. For this action" for acceding to his request.*

SAIGON FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

More good news from Saigon. ~~by far~~

Informed sources predicting the release of another group of American PO W's perhaps as early as the middle of next week. The final arrangements to be completed -- we hear - at a meeting of the Vietnam joint military commission ~~set for~~ tomorrow. This in line with U S withdrawal from Vietnam <sup>which is</sup> <sub>^</sub> now said to be seventy-five percent complete.

The Communist side <sup>is</sup> <sub>^</sub> still holding some two hundred and eighty ~~is~~ prisoners. The next group <sup>to be freed is</sup> ~~five~~ <sub>^</sub> expected to total about a-hundred-and-forty.

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If all goes well, the rest expected to be set free around the end of the month.

## DASSAS

*From Dallas comes an announcement - telling of plans for a giant rally in honor of Vietnam war veterans and their families. Texas electronics tycoon H. Ross Perot and fellow Texas W.W. Clements are the two who are arranging this.*

*The event to be called "from the heart". Date - set for June Second. Place - The Cotton Bowl. With those expected to take part - including Bob Hope, Martha Raye and Charlie Pride; also, Evangelist Billy Graham. Perot and Clements are hoping President Nixon will in some way be involved.*

## WOUNDED KNEE

At Wounded Knee, South Dakota - an agreement today "in principal". Terms - as yet, undisclosed. Officials of both sides - adding that many factors are still being negotiated. A government spokesman stressing however <sup>that there has been what he terms</sup> ~~this is~~ a "major step forward."

The wounding of two Indians last night - apparently play<sup>ed</sup>~~ing~~ a major role in today's discussions.

The Indians said to feel that "some blood has been spilled - a symbolic sacrifice has been made."

One of the Indian leaders <sup>is</sup> also quoted as saying:

"Well, we're ~~wanting~~ ready for some R and R now."

R and R meaning <sup>the usual,</sup> ~~of course,~~ "rest and relaxation."

## **RIO DAS MORTES**

*Almost un-noticed here in the U.S. - Brasil has been having its own Indian problems; problems that now threaten to make Wounded Knee look like some sort of clam bake.*

*The chief bone of contention a vast region along the Rio des Mortes in Brazil's Matto Grasso - Green Hell. This the traditional stamping rounds of the fierce Xavante Indians. Except that big ranchers - or so-called Fazendeiros - have been steadily encroaching on Indian territory, to the point we are told - where the Indians are donning war paint and taking up fire arms; threatening an all-out war in defense of their homeland. Officials add, what's more - the Xavantes are fully capable of carrying out their threat. The Rio des Mortes - meaning literally "River of Death." So named from previous Indian attacks on would-be white settlers, adventurers, and explorers.*

**CAPITOL HILL**

**On Capitol Hill - the Senate Judiciary**

**committee was continuing its hearings on the nomination**

**of L Patrick Gray to head the F B I. Columnist**

**Jack Anderson ~~serving~~ as today's chief witness,**

**Calling the Acting F B I <sup>director</sup> ~~man~~ - nothing more than**

**a "political hatchet man" for President. Adding that**

**the "greatest possible abuse" of executive power -**

**would be to turn the directorship of the F B I into**

**a political plum.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Elsewhere on Capitol Hill a meeting of the Senate Communications sub-committee; hearing today from top executives - of the three major TV networks; each urging repeal of the present "equal time" law.**

**Frank Stanton of CBS - noting the lack of face to face debates during Campaign Seventy-Two. This - said he - contributing to lower voter turn out; which he called - a "drastic and hazardous trend."**

## DACCA

*Barely a year ago - you may recall - U.S. prestige in Hindustan was at low ebb. Mainly because of U.S. support of Pakistan in its ill-fated war with India and Bangladesh. A high Bangladesh official once saying the new state would refuse U.S. aid even if offered; because "it might be poisoned" said he. But times change - and need, too. Now comes a report spelling out the most concentrated international relief effort in history. Over the past year - Bangladesh receiving a billion in foreign aid. Of which - now get this - fully a third is coming from the U.S. Some three-hundred-and-twenty-eight million in all, or half again as much as from India and more than five times what they get from Russia.*



**BELFAST**

*From Belfast - the final tally today - on that referendum held yesterday in northern Ireland. Voting for union with the Republic of Ireland - a little more than six thousand. Voting against - nearly six hundred thousand.*

*The Reverend Ian Paisley, a militant protestant leader, hailing the outcome as a massive victory said: "It proves the campaign by the I R A - has failed to weaken the resolve of the people of northern Ireland to remain in the United Kingdom."*

**PARIS**

*The Finance ministers of the wealthiest nations in the West - met today in Paris to try to solve the present world monetary crisis; and adjourning with another meeting set for next week. West Germany's Helmut Schmidt saying: "Chances for an international solution to the crisis - are good."*

## UNEMPLOYMENT

*The U. S. unemployment rate according to figures announced today - has increased by one tenth of a percent; first increase in seven months.*

*Optimistic about it Chairman Herbert Stein of the President's Council of Economic Advisors says: All Labor market information shows economic expansion in progress is raising the demand for labor. Which "can be expected to reduce unemployment further."*

**HOUSE**

**Congressman Conyers of Michigan - one of the charter members of the Congressional "Black Caucus" is chief sponsor of a bill introduced today aimed at preventing a dismantling of the office of Economic Opportunity. Conyers admitting though his chances of success are slim. He calls himself - a "legislative junkie;" because - said he - "I keep introducing bills - that don't go anywhere."**

## **PALO ALTO**

*At Palo Alto, California, famous as the home of The Hoover Library and Stanford University - eight year old Benita Hopkins inadvertently locked herself out of her house. In trying to get back in she boldly climbed up on the roof and tried to drop down a chimney - a la Santa Claus. But she got stuck about half way. Her screams aroused brother who ran to a nearby construction crew for help. Benita emerging looking like an end man in an old time minstrel show, but unhurt. Why did she do it? Because she says Benita, I figured: "If Santa can do it why can't I." She says, Bill, someday she intends to get down that chimney!*

**SEOUL**

*Tomorrow in South Korea they are launching a massive cleanup campaign, to weed out "undesirables," do it by means of a new revised law on misdemeanors. For one, the new law bans hippie style hair cuts, see through clothes and public drunkenness; also, littering, spreading unfounded rumors - illegally teaching dancing - ticket scalping - spitting in public, and so on and on.*

*The punishment for wearing see thru clothes - and all the above to be twenty-nine days in the hoosegaw or a fine of a hundred and twenty-five bucks. And so long until Monday!*