

PRESIDENT

Wed. Dec. 24. - '69,

The White House -- a bill signing ceremony today with mixed emotions. President Nixon putting his ~~signature~~ signature to a double-barreled measure-- half of which he approves and half of which he stoutly disapproves.

6 1/2
The first part - a routine but necessary piece of ~~legislation~~ legislation; continuing the authority of the Federal Government ~~to~~ to regulate interest rates paid by banks and savings and loan associations. However the second part - giving the President the authority to invoke mandatory credit controls - supposedly to fight inflation; and that - said he ^{is} ~~is~~ an authority he does not want.

The President asserting that such controls, if ever used - would "take the nation a long step toward a directly ^{con} ~~controlled~~ economy." And the only reason he signed the bill at all -- said he "to prevent chaos in interest rates."

AGNEW FOLLOW PRESIDENT

The President was later joined - by Vice
President ~~Spive~~ Agnew. The two men meeting with
reporters - as a prelude to the Vice President's ~~up-~~
~~coming~~ Asian tour, ^{his about to make. Mr,} ~~Spive~~ Agnew saying he will discuss
the so-called "Nixon doctrine," ^e With a broad spectrum
of Asian leaders. This, ~~as you know~~ the philosophy
that Asian nations must assume a greater ~~responsibility~~
responsibility for their own security and economic
development.

In response to a question - the Vice President
said he will also "make every effort" to visit Vietnam.
And then - at ~~presidential~~ parley's end - the President
turning to his chief Lieutenant - wish^{ed}ing him a good
trip, and a safe return. The President observing that
one day soon - he, "might need that one vote margin
in the Senate."

VIETNAM

~~Half a world away~~ - Christmas quiet
settled today over much of Vietnam. Both sides
observing a holiday truce - in the early hours, at
least; ~~perhaps~~ ^{this just about} the closest ^{so far} ~~yet~~ to a bonafide cease-fire.

Nevertheless, U.S. and Allied troops - are
maintaining a constant alert. A Marine sargent at Thai
Cam observing "sure, there's a cease fire." But,
"there was a cease fire last Christmas, too" - and he
added: - ^{had}
~~we~~ "and we ~~had~~ to fire till dawn to bail out a U.S.
patrol."

RABAT

Rabat, Morocco - that all Arab summit meeting

~~is over - for the present,~~
~~has turned out another flk flop as you no doubt have~~

~~heard by now.~~ The various Arab leaders heading for

home, today ~~as divergent in~~ Their views ^{regarding} ~~on~~ Israel as far
apart as ever. ~~before, maybe more.~~ So it appears, _^ _^ _^ Palestinian guerrilla

leader Yasser Arafat observing that his fellow Arabs

gave him - "love and sympathy" and little more.

BETHLEHEM FOLLOW RABAT

Meanwhile, the mid-East ~~"non-war"~~ continues.

Israeli jets ^{we're} pounding Arab positions, ~~again today~~ -
concentrating ^{mainly} ~~heavily~~ on the southern end of the Suez
Canal.

At the same time, Israeli security forces
were sealing off - the Little Town of Bethlehem, birth-
place of the Prince of Peace. ~~Closing the entire~~
~~area to all but "known" "men of good will".~~

This in ~~an~~ response to a guerrilla warning -
that even pilgrims are not immune to attack.

WEST BERLIN

49

For the first time in twenty-eight years -
Rudolf Hess met today with his wife and son. The place -
a British ~~to~~ military hospital in West Berlin; ~~where~~
Hess was transferred ^{there} recently - for treatment of a
stomach ulcer. The former number three Nazi - having
previously refused to meet with his family; saying he
would never see them - as long as he was confined at
the Spandau War Crimes Prison. - ^{still insisting he is}
innocent,

Even today though - the seventy-~~is~~ five year
old Hess was forbidden from ^{even touching} ~~kissing~~ his wife and son.
~~or even touching them.~~ Authorities guarding against
the possibility that they might pass him poison - thus
permitting him ^{to} take his own life.

BRUSSELS

Turning to the business page - something of a surprise today from Brussels. A report from the European Common Market, showing an economic growth rate of seven percent over the past year; better by far - than our own record here in the States. Indeed, the Common Market setting its total growth - at eighty-five percent in the first twelve years of its existence; as compared with sixty-three percent in the U S - ^{by} only forty-one percent in ~~the~~ Britain during the same period.

Willie, ~~the actor~~, ^{actor-} Sutton, ~~was~~ robber and
 jail break artist extraordinaire? - A free man tonight
 for the first time in seventeen years. Escaping New
 York's Attica State Prison ^{this time} the legal way, for a change, ~~that~~
 on ~~the basis of~~ court orders ^{ending the} ~~vacating~~ sentences that
 could have kept him in jail for life. Willie, ~~the~~
~~Actor~~ ^{- Robber -} - in his prime - a man who ^{explained why} ~~said~~ he robbed a
 bank ^{saying:-} "because that's where the money is." ~~He~~ He further
 claimed he had stolen, in all, more than two million. ~~For~~
^{Which in the end}
 He paid dearly, ~~though~~, spending thirty-seven years of
 his life in various penal institutions. And now - at age
 sixty-eight - he's seriously ill - suffering from
~~an~~ emphysema.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a postscript today on that recent first visit from L B J. —
~~You will recall —~~
~~_____~~ former President Johnson conferring with President Nixon - for more than two hours. The two ~~was~~ concerning themselves chiefly - with foreign affairs, ~~and~~ what was said then and there - still, ~~of course,~~ a closely guarded secret.

However, the former Chief Executive - is said to have discussed his visit later with friends, ^{and} L B J ^{is} quoted as saying: "Dick Nixon is doing a lot better as President - than most people realize. And he would do even better" - L B J went on - "if only the blankety blank press would leave him alone and give him a chance."

~~That~~ ^{That from} "the voice of experience" - ~~so to speak.~~ would you say?

PITTSBURGH

This next - especially appropos of Christmas Eve; a story of holiday romance - reported today from Pittsburg; where a girl by the name of Holly Skodol - and a boy ~~by~~ by the name of Noel Wilson, have ~~just~~ applied for a marriage license. Holly and Noel, ^{of course} setting the date ~~as of~~ ^{for} this weekend.

The groom to be - ~~doubtless~~ ^{I presume} planning, ^{Warren,} ~~to do so~~

^{to deck} ~~deck~~ his halls with holly now and forever more. ~~His~~

^{His} future bride pledging, ~~in turn,~~ that young Mr. Wilson will always be - her first Noel.