

Thursday, August 2, 1973
Washington, D. C.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a flat refusal today to discuss that so-called Colson memo; the one alleged ly linking President Nixon - with an out of court settlement in the ITT case.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren merely saying: "Whatever policy decisions the President may have relayed to anti-trust operations - would have been entirely within the prerogative of the President; and entirely within the law" - he continued - "concerning anti-trust procedures."

INOUYE

The newest hero here in Washington - none other than Danny K. Not the comedian - but Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii; so proclaimed today - by those who know him best his Senate colleagues.

Senator Ervin of North Carolina setting the general tenor - at the start of today's Watergate hearings, noting that his fellow committee-member lost an arm - while fighting with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II. Adding that Inouye has proved himself time and again - "one of the most gallant of all Americans." Further declaring: "I don't know a finer man."

Senator Baker of Tennessee - then making it a bipartisan tribute. "There is no man" - said he - "more loyal and dedicated to his country" than Senator Inouye; no "anyone on this committee" - he continued - "who has made a greater contribution to its efforts."

In the Senate - proper - more of the same. Senate

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield - also alluding to Inouye's wartime record. Calling the gentleman of Hawaii - "the biggest American in this body; a man who "gave an arm to prove it - under the most difficult of circumstances."

Going on to say: "There is no man in whom I have greater confidence." While Senator Bensen of Texas was calling Inouye - "a hero in a land that desperately needs a hero."

All of this, as you know, the result of a casual reference to Inouye - as "the little Jap;" a reference since denounced - from Washington to Waikiki; that is by all, it seems - except Danny K. himself. Indeed, Inouye responding today to Senators Ervin and Baker - with just a few words in Hawaiian; a phrase he later translated as saying - "thank you very much and I love you both."

WATERGATE FOLLOW INOUYE

That done - the Watergate hearings resumed; with former CIA Director Richard Helms - again in the witness chair.

Helms starting out with a ringing statement - saying "the CIA had no involvement with the breakin - no involvement whatever. And it was my preoccupation" he continued - "from then to this time, to make this point - and to be sure everybody understands it." His voice rising to a virtual shout now - as Helms added: "It doesn't seem to get across very well for some - but the agency had nothing to do with the Watergate breakin."

The next witness - Marine Corps Commandant Robert Cushman, who was formerly Deputy CIA Director. Cushman telling of a request from E. Howard Hunt - for a speech-altering device and other equipment; which was later used - in the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office. Hunt reportedly saying he needed these things - for a secret, high priority"interview."

HIGHWAYS

The White House also let it be known today - that President Nixon will sign a new twenty billion dollar highway bill; and not veto it - as earlier feared.

The bill in question for the first time allowing the use of highway trust funds - to build subways and other mass transit facilities. The President's decision to go along with this - relayed to Congress by Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar; now quoted as saying - the President "is going to sign it."

PRICES

On the price front - the news of late has all been so disagreeable this next is perhaps worthy of special note. At any rate, government figures announced today - show a one point three percent decrease in wholesale prices; the first such decline in nearly a year - and, more than that, the biggest such decline in twenty four years. The main reason, of course - President Nixon's Phase Three and-a-half price freeze.

As for Phase Four - well, we'll wait for that.

HOUSE

In the House - final approval today of a bill aimed at providing low interest FHA loans - for thousands of would be home owners. The new bill authorizing a temporary continuation of FHA lending authority - pending the solution of a dispute over a proposed one year extension.

At the same time, the Federal Home Loan Bank - moving to ease the squeeze on mortgage money; reducing from six-and-a-half to five-and-a-half percent - the liquidity requirements of mortgage lending institutions; thereby making an additional two-point-two-billion - immediately available for mortgage loans.

EARTH ORBIT

Trouble in space. The Apollo shuttle craft that carried aloft America's Sky Lab Two Astronauts today developed rocket control problems. For a time, space officials were considering a possible mission abort - with the astronauts then to return to earth; splashdown - either tomorrow or Saturday. In the end though, there was a decision to proceed as planned - for the full fifty-nine days. That is barring further troubles of course. All this was relayed to the three astronauts by Director Chris Kraft of the Houston space Center. Mission Commander Alan Bean radioing back: "You've just said the right words! - That's what we've been hoping you'd say!"

Chris Kraft adding however, that an emergency rescue ship - is also being readied at Cape Kennedy "on an accelerated basis." "Just to be prudent" - said he; "so we would have a rescue vehicle available - should that become necessary."

SENATE

The Senate again - a resolution was passed today - urging weekend drivers to slow down. This - in order to conserve precious gasoline. The Senate specifically urging a speed reduction of ten miles an hour - where the posted limit is fifty-five or higher.

The message, in short: Drive slower - save gas. And possibly lives, too.

"The Last Great Traffic Jam" - a magazine article of some twenty years ago - was a phantasy of the future. It's author foreseeing a day when U.S. cars and trucks would be jammed together - bumper to bumper from coast to coast. And the only solution - suggested to abandon all those vehicles - pave them over - and start again.

Maybe the closest thing to the real thing - now reported happened at Kingston-on-Thames, a burough of London - on a rainy Saturday afternoon. Thousands upon thousands of motorists - getting trapped for hours in a massive tie-up. The drivers turning off their engines - chatting, reading, or dozing. A nearby fire burning unchecked - because firemen just couldn't get to it.

A local resident later saying: "The thing that impressed me most - was the total absence of noise." And he added: "One could hear the feet of pedestrians on the pavement - telephone ringing in distant offices - and even the sound of raindrops." So says the National Geographic.

DOVER

From Dover, England - the story of a young man who took a "sleeper" across the English channel; and it wasn't a train - a boat - or a plane. Tony Appleton using his own four-poster-bed - equipped with an outboard motor and special flotation equipment. Crossing a twenty-one mile stretch of sea - doing it in a few hours.

Appleton adding that his beddy-by trip was uneventful - except at the end. "The French people on the beach were amazed" - said he - "when I chugged shore." I wonder why, Bill. Could it be - they'd never seen a water-bed before?

FARRAGUT STATE PARK

At Farragut State Park in Idaho - the Nineteen-Seventy-Three National Boy Scouts Jamboree-West. For a week, at least - it has become Idaho's third largest community; with more than thirty-thousand scouts - taking part in skill-aramas, campfire programs, swimming, fishing and everything boy scouts do.

Perhaps the hit of the whole affair though - an appearance by comedian Bob Hope, once gain right at home - in entertaining our young men in uniform. Bob Hope also telling the Boy Scouts - his views on patriotism and America in general. Adding, in effect, that now more than ever - he's proud to be an American - adding that we all should be