

RHODESIA

L.T. - Buick, Fisher. Wed, Apr. 27-66.

First ~~xxxx~~ tentative step toward a reconciliation - between Britain and the breakaway colony of Rhodesia - announced today in London. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson - reporting the start of informal talks with Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith; to determine if there isn't some basis - for a mutually acceptable compromise on the racial issue.

Wilson's announcement - to the Wk House of Commons - met with a loud cheer. The Prime Minister emphasizing, however - that the talks "are without commitment on either side" - as yet. Further, refusing to discuss any details of the talks - at this time; Because said he - it would only "make them more difficult."

RAILROADS

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The biggest railroad merger in history - a union between the Pennsylvania and New York Central railroads - finally approved today by the ~~Inter~~ Interstate Commerce Commission. Contingent, however, on two key points: one - that the new ^{combine} ~~firm~~ must take over passenger service - on the bankrupt New York, New Haven and Hartford Commuter line. And two - that all current employees ^{to} ~~will~~ be assured jobs - except in case of severe economic losses.

By contrast - the I C C at the same time - rejecting a planned merger by three western railroads. This - the ~~great~~ Great Northern, the Northern Pacific, and the Chicago Burlington and Quincy ~~lines~~; a merger that would have created - the longest single railroad in the country. The advantages of such a merger - said to be far out-weighted by the ~~the~~ value of continuing competition - between the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific.

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ACKLEY

The question: Once again whether the administration will seek a new tax increase. The latest answer -- was provided today by Gardner Ackley - the President's top economic adviser; ^{who gave} a qualified "no".

Ackley, Chairman of the Council of Economic advisers, asserting in Chicago that the final decision - "depends ~~on~~ in large measure on what happens to food prices." If the nation's food industry passes along to ~~housewiv~~ housewives -- lower farm prices expected later this year; if this helps to persuade ~~kat~~ labor - to hold down its own demands; and if this in turn - prevents a wage-price spiral; then - said Ackley -- then there will be no need - for a tax increase.

FLOOD

A hundred miles of lowlands in Ohio and Michigan -- along the shores of Lake Erie -- swept today by a wild windstorm, ^{with} Wind-whipped waves up to twelve feet - battering houses, docks and boats -- even submerging whole towns. The flood waters up to five ~~xxx~~ feet deep - at Luna Pier and Estral Beach in Michigan.

At least four dikes - smashed by the storm.

With some five thousand persons - forced to evacuate their homes. ~~Luckily though injuries - said to be at~~
~~a minimum.~~

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam -- another massive attack today -- by those big B-Fifty-Twos from Guam; blasting for a second time the vital Ky Mu Gia Pass -- on the Viet Cong vital Ho Chi Minh supply trail.

The new attack meaning more back-breaking labor for an army of native laborers; some say -- as many as a hundred and fifty thousand of them; at work trying to reopen the pass since the B-Fifty-Two raid two weeks ago.

On the political front -- another potential crisis at Da Nang. A Catholic leader there charging that the Buddhists want to make peace in Viet Nam -- "by shaking hands with the Communists." F ther Hoang Ho vowing to send a Catholic army to Saigon -- "to protect the government" as he put it - if the Buddhists attempt ~~to~~^a a take-over -- through renewed street violence.

INDONESIA

The government of Indonesia said to be hard at work today - attempting to right the nation's chaotic financial picture; in hopes of returning to the good graces - of foreign creditors. Most notably - those in the United States, Russia, Japan and Western Europe. Radio

~~This according to a broadcast from Radio~~
Jakarta, Citing as evidence - a statement by Foreign Minister Adam Malik - indicating a reversal of the recent trend - toward confiscation of foreign industry. ~~Among other things~~ Malik refusing to approve nationalization - of the American-owned Stanvac refinery, and oil fields in Sumatra.

A top Indonesian labor leader - also quoted as saying that henceforth, his people will "go slow" in demanding that top management jobs - be turned over to Indonesians. Said he: "We must show the outside world first - that we also have something to give."

VATICAN

At the Vatican ~~in Rome~~ - an historic meeting today between Pope Paul - and Soviet Foreign Minister ~~Andrei~~ Gromyko; first high - ranking Communist official ~~to~~ ever granted a Papal audience.

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The two ~~men~~ conferring for forty-five minutes - on problems of world affairs; including - presumably - the war in Viet Nam. At the conclusion - Gromyko reporting agreement on at least one point; that "men must unite to work for the one goal of peace - no matter what their political feelings or ideologies."

Entirely on his own - Gromyko later calling for a European summit meeting - to further peace in Europe - and perhaps to alleviate world tensions. Although he didn't come right out and say ~~it~~ -- Gromyko indicating that such a meeting - by its very nature - must exclude the United States.

SEVENTY TWO OLYMPICS

When the word came from Rome that Utah had lost out on the Winter Olympics for Seventy Two, and likewise the Banff area of Western Canada, American winter sports enthusiasts naturally asked the question: Just where is Sapporo, Japan? First of all, Japan today has more skiers than any country in the world -- Chihara Igaya, Japanese Olympic star told me the latest estimate is between six and seven million. While most of these swarm over the slopes of the mountains of the main island of Honshu -- a few hours by train or car from Tokyo -- their best snow area is some hundreds of miles farther north, on the much more thinly populated great island of Hokkaido. And that's where Sapporo is, a city with a population of more than a half a million.

The report from Rome is that the Canadian Olympic Committee was infuriated because Avery Brundage, just before the vote, had brought up the matter of bird watchers in western Canada complaining that they didn't want the Winter

SEVENTY TWO OLYMPICS--2

Olympics because it would disrupt wild life in the beautiful Lake Louise area.

As the way Alta and the Wasatch Mountain region, one of the most spectacular ski areas in the world, was passed over -- no word.

But -- I hope we have some word from you, Warren.

FUND

Here's thrilling news: A personal gift of One million dollars -- to help preserve the Temples of Abu Simbel far up the Nile. This from Mrs. DeWitt Wallace -- the lovely Lila -- co-chairman with her husband of The Reader's Digest.

The gift -- a giant step toward reaching the American goal -- of three-and-a-half million dollars; to match a pledge by the United Arab Republic -- for complete restoration of the Temples of Ramses.

The temples -- thirty-two hundred years old -- of the Pharaoh Ramses-the-Second -- and his queen, Nefertiti, threatened by the rising waters of the Aswan Dam -- and now being lifted and reconstructed on higher ground.

The National Geographic Magazine has a stunning article on Abu Simbel in the May issue, just out.