

TAXES

On the tax front - a showdown battle is brewing tonight in Washington. A battle for fiscal supremacy - led by Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee on one hand; by President Johnson - on the other.

The gauntlet first flung by Mills - Chief tax writer in Congress - in stinging remarks addressed today to the President. The Arkansas Democrat telling L.B.J. - he can forget about a tax increase this year, unless - said Mills - unless the President is willing to make both immediate and long range cuts in Federal spending.

The President firing right back with a blast of his own - against any further delay in the tax hike. Asserting that refusal to raise taxes - will eventually cost the American people more than twice as much in the form of higher prices. The President adding that its "not a popular thing" to ask for more taxes - to pay "for a war that is not popular either; but you have to do what is responsible - and what is right" - said he.

Chairman George Mahon of the House Appropriations Committee and Democratic Whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana - quick to support the President; challenging Mills to site specific programs - which he thinks can or should be killed.

Reverse side - from House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, who rhapsodized almost poetic - in support of Mills' position. Said Ford: "There is great rejoicing among Republicans - as there is in heaven - over one sinner that repented."

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - three of a kind today. With India joining Canada and Poland - in urging an immediate end to U.S. bombing of North Vietnam. Making it unanimous among the three nations - originally chosen to police that long-ago armistice in Vietnam.

Indian Defense Minister Swaran Singh - presenting the New Delhi viewpoint - saying he was confident North Vietnam "would respond favorably to a bombing halt." This opinion "not merely an exercise in wishful thinking" - said he - "but based on talks with the various parties concerned.

Singh adding: "There is always some military risk involved in de-escalating a conflict - but the risks involved in escalation are infinitely greater."

VIETNAM FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

Be that as it may - the air war goes on. News from Vietnam telling today of a third straight day of massive U.S. air strikes - against the Communist North.

American planes - flashing past Communist migs; to deliver a devastating blow - against enemy oil storage facilities in Haiphong. Before they were done - smoke and flames shooting two miles into the air.

At the same time - a second strike within ten miles of the Chinese border. American jets blasting key bridges - on Hanoi's life-line to Red China.

Meanwhile, to the South - the Vietcong were concentrating again on sneak attacks. Blowing up a third bridge on key Highway One, where they blew up two others yesterday. Also planting a mine that blew up a civilian bus - killing twenty passengers.

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - the Vatican itself was under fire today, at a session concluding the first full week - of the month-long synod of bishops.

Chief target: A recent Church document called "Dangers to the Faith". The paper branded - among other things, too negative, unfair, superficial.

One speaker asserting pointedly that "authentic faith must be preached to modern man in a manner intelligible to him." Another saying the church must demonstrate its real concern for humanity - rather than present "merely a catalog of errors." A third saying the document showed only - "terror for the future - and a nostalgia for the past."

JAKARTA

Ultimatum in Jakarta. This the work of angry anti-Communist Indonesian students - who today threatened to take matters into their own hands. Telling their government to break off diplomatic relations with Red China - do it by Ten O'Clock Monday morning - or else.

Or else what? Or else the students themselves will take over the Chinese Embassy - they say. Further promising to throw out bodily - any Chinese Diplomats who may still be there.

SANAA

From Sanaa - mountain Capitol of Yemen - a story today of sudden retribution for a public official too zealous in performance of his duties.

The man in question - Abdul Qader Al Khatri, Yemen's Deputy Interior Minister and also Director of Internal Security who took it upon himself personally this week - to quell a mob of demonstrators threatening Egyptian Military Headquarters in Sanaa. This because of Egypt's decision - to withdraw from the Yemeni Civil War.

Only trouble - the mob refused to disperse; with the security chief finally opening fire on the demonstrators - killing several of them.

That was the end of the demonstration - also the end of Abdul Qader Al Khatri; who today was condemned by a Military Tribunal - and promptly executed.

VENUS

From a pair of respected ivy league scientists - comes a new theory today, suggesting, contrary to popular notion, that there is life on Venus.

Doctor Harold Morowitz of Yale and Doctor Karl Sagan of Harvard, agreeing with most of their colleagues, to the extent that the surface of Venus is indeed too hot and dry - to support life as we know it. Ah - but that dense Venutian cloud cover, that's another story - they say.

The clouds of Venus - supposedly containing vast quantities of water and carbon dioxide. These, in combination with sunlight, the necessary ingredients for photosynthesis, chemical means by which plants here on earth can convert light into energy.

Conclusion: There could well be living organisms - swimming around in a heavy Venutian atmosphere. Perhaps even intelligent beings who would look more or less like floating "gas bags", they say.

An interesting theory. The more so when you consider

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that nearly everytime someone reports a visitor from outer space the Air Force blames it on swamp gas.

So how about it, Warren? Maybe we're being visited by gas bags from Venus.

BOSTON

At U. S. First Naval District Headquarters in Boston - a new mainmast was put in place today, aboard the U. S. S. Constitution, a restored revolutionary war sailing ship. The ceremony thereby perpetuating a sailing ritual dating back thousands of years.

This a Navy rite - all but forgotten; when workmen removed the old mast from the Constitution and found beneath it - thirty-three coins.; some of them - dating back to the turn of the century. So as not to break the chain - the Navy there-upon adding a new Kennedy Medallion to the collection before the new mast was put in place.

The legend of the coins - dating back to early Rome and perhaps beyond. Early sailors placing coins under their masts - to pay for passage of their souls across the River Styx - should they be lost at sea. And so long until Monday.