

Wednesday, February 13, 1974

TRANSPORTATION

The White House - President Nixon unveiled today his new transportation proposals. In a special message to Congress he urges a massive two phase overhaul of U. S. mass transportation. Phase one - to include an appropriation of nearly sixteen billion for mass transit bus and rapid rail systems in major U. S. cities with another three point four billion - for smaller cities and rural areas. Phase two - calling for an appropriation of two billion more - to put an end to the gradual deterioration of our railroads.

If approved by Congress - said the President - this to mark the largest single commitment ever made by the Federal government to mass transportation.

WASHINGTON

Washington again - a final communique from that world energy conference. A day late - a nation short.

The U.S. and eleven other oil consuming nations - all but France - agreeing to set up a coordinating group headed by senior officials. Its job - that of directing and coordinating multi-lateral efforts - aimed at easing that global energy shortage. This to include a conference with the major oil producing nations - at the earliest possible opportunity.

France was still insisting, however, on going it alone. A French spokesman stressing that French reservations about the common strategy plan are such as to constitute "formal opposition."

TIJUANA

The grass is always greener we are told - so too the gas it seems. At any rate there's a growing cross traffic between Tijuana, Mexico and Chula Vista, California. Mexican motorists heading north - because U.S. gas is cheaper and better in quality. U.S. motorists heading south - knowing at Mexican gas stations there's no waiting. Six of one and half a dozen of the other.

BETHESDA

After putting it off for weeks - President Nixon finally took his annual physical today at the Bethesda Naval Medical center. Blood pressure one-twenty over seventy-four pulse seventy-two - weight - a hundred and seventy-two, unchanged. Electrocardiogram - normal. And so it went.

The President's personal physician Dr. Walter Tkach later saying the President is in very good health; really excellent. Adding that the President also is in a very good frame of mind. "No evidence whatsoever of an emotional strain."- said he.

That done, the President and Mrs. Nixon and daughter Tricia Cox flying south to Key Biscayne. The President will dedicate a new health care center - tomorrow in Miami. He will also take part in an "honor America Day" at Huntsville, Alabama before returning to Washington next week.

BERKELEY

From the father of kidnapped Patricia Hearst an attempt today at responding to ransom demands that would cost an estimated two or three hundred million. Newspaper publisher Randolph Hearst saying the ransom request is impossible to meet. "However, in the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours" said he - "I will try my best to come back with a counter offer that is acceptable."

Hearst then addressing a few words - directly to his daughter. "We will do all we can to get you out" - said he. Adding: "We're praying for you and a few are even praying for the people who have you."

FRANKFORT

Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn - was stripped of his Soviet citizenship today. The man who wrote the controversial Gulag Archipelago was then sent into exile. Arriving at Frankfurt aboard a Soviet Aeroflot airliner he was met by a fellow Nobel Prize winner West German author Heinrich Boell. Solzhenitsyn becoming the first Soviet citizen so expelled since the exile of Leon Trotsky in Nineteen Twenty-Nine. Meanwhile back in Moscow the Soviet news agency TASS was telling why. Saying Solzhenitsyn was guilty of actions - "that are incompatible with being a citizen and detrimental to the U S S R. One consolation though - Tass saying that "Solzhenitsyn's family can join him - when they deem it necessary."

INDEPENDENCE

At Independence, Missouri - Bess Truman was quietly observing her eighty-ninth birthday. Nothing fancy, no parties or anything like that.

SIMON

For the past couple of months - Energy Czar

*Simon has been working eighteen hours a day practically
seven days a week. Now at last a brief let up. Simon
today flying down here to Florida, to spend a few days in the
sun - and hopefully, no doubt Bill acquire some energy.*

GIBRALTAR

Remember the story about the Gibraltar, Michigan housewife Mrs. John Horn - who had her jaws wired together? Her formula for losing nearly a hundred pounds. Anyway that was six weeks ago and now a progress report.

Mrs. Horn saying her self imposed lockjaw has indeed helped her cut down on input. "I've lost thirty-four pounds said she. Adding through clenched teeth: "All of them in the dumb places - my feet, my fingers, my chin."