

RAILS

Tues, May 18 - '71.

From coast to coast and border to border ~~at~~ the U.S.A. ^{today had a} bad case of galloping paralysis ~~today~~ with the nationwide rail tie-up rapidly jamming the wheels of commerce and industry, especially in the auto industry - where Chrysler, Ford and American Motors were already cutting back; also farming and food processing ~~were~~ where a long strike could be disastrous.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate were moving by different routes - trying to end the nation's second nationwide rail strike in less than six months. And this expected to call for the services of a joint-House-Senate conference committee - before final approval, ^{maybe tomorrow or the next day -} ~~when a vote can be taken~~

KREMLIN

For Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau, ~~who~~
~~is currently~~ visiting in Moscow, - a series of talks
today with Kremlin leaders. At the outset, Trudeau
saying: "I have but one purpose - to help Canada have
still better good neighborly relations with the Soviet
Union". This bearing in mind - said he - that Russia
and Canada are "the two greatest Arctic powers," ~~of the~~
~~world, that they~~ ^{and} must work together to solve Arctic
problems.

Later ~~on~~ a Kremlin luncheon; where ~~in~~
~~Soviet~~ Premier Kosygin - again called for an all-European
Security Conference; one that would also include as
participants - both the U S and Canada. Kosygin observing
the general situation in western Europe - has been made
more hopeful and favorable to achieve changes for the
better." And he added: "If the West shows a readiness
to undertake practical measures towards reducing foreign
troops - we will do all we can to achieve agreement."

A SHAU

On the war front - South Vietnam - a

pincers movement today in the key A Shau Valley;

with two units of Saigon troops - advancing along a

series of opposing ridges; ~~in the no words of at least~~

^{as} one observer ^{put it; -} taking it easy, going very carefully; ^e
~~in the process~~, brushing ^{aside} enemy resistance ^{that is} ~~said to~~
^{reported} ~~to still~~ light.

Their commanders warn, ~~however~~ - the

worst may be yet to come; ~~most likely~~ when they do

try to close those Pincers.

LAOS FOLLOW A SHAU

Meanwhile ~~Reverse side~~ Communist troops ^{were} scoring another major advance ~~today~~ in the southern Laotian Pan-Handle, ~~Along the way~~ all but leveling ^{one} ~~the~~ town of ~~Bong Heng~~ forcing ^{the} defenders ~~there~~ - those ~~that~~ who survived - to fall back ~~some~~ three miles to new positions.

~~At nearby Pakse~~ ^{all} this leading to the evacuation of an estimated one hundred - wives and children of American personnel. An official Laotian military spokesman - admitting the situation ^{there} "is getting worse."

CAIRO

In the Middle East - Cairo -- an apparent
easing of censorship today, ~~at least - that~~ on outgoing
news; with President Anwar Sadat said to have ordered
a new "open door" policy - following the ouster of
his ^{Also} ~~the~~ chief of rivals for leadership. ~~And this leading~~
~~to a subsequent~~ ^a report - that a purge of Egypt's Arab
Socialist union, its only political party, is now under
way.

TEL AVIV FOLLOW CAIRO

Meanwhile, Israel was recalling today -
its Ambassador to Washington. Yitzhak Rabin - who
was Israel's Chief of Staff during the ²~~the~~ brief war of
Nineteen Sixty Seven. - ^{He now} ~~is~~ become ~~was~~ a minister of
Development

This following charges in Tel Aviv - that
Rabin had become too closely associated with the
so-called American view on the Middle East; namely,
that Israel should be more "flexible" - in the pursuit
of peace.

ISLE OF LINOSA

The Isle of Linosa - a tiny speck of land off the coast of Sicily - is the new home today for sixteen reputed mafia leaders.. These rounded up by police - in Italy's biggest deportation operation since World War Two. Their arrests and subsequent banishment - coming in the midst of a new wave of gangland violence; including - as you may recall - the recent assassination of Sicily's top Mafia fighter. Police adding that several of the mobsters - are said to have close ties with organized crime here in the U.S.

SALEM

This next - from Salem, Oregon, ^{In Oregon's capital city} ~~where it~~

a sign appeared today & outside a local garden shop.

The day's specials, ^{is} ~~including~~ announced as: "Hot plants", also,

"exciting bloomers."

MOUNT TURU

~~Here's one~~ ^Q tale of impending human sacrifice ^{is} reported today from Mount Turu, ^{in the} East Sepik ^{region} of New Guinea; where thousands of natives ~~were~~ ^{today} gathering ~~even now~~ - expecting to witness a double pagan death-right. Authorities admitting ~~that~~ they know about it - ~~but adding they're~~ ^{and are} powerless to stop it.

How did this all come about? Well, the main reason - we are told - a big concrete survey marker, ~~which~~ was placed ~~on~~ atop Mount Turu nearly a decade ago, - by a U S geophysical team. Over the years, said marker becoming to native cultists - a symbol of the white man's ^{at least partial} domination of the area.

Cult leader Matthias Yeliwan finally pledging to sacrifice his own life - in an effort to remove the "curse". The cultists also deciding that a young boy - as yet unnamed - shall also join him in death. The sacrificial ceremony

originally set for July seventh ~~but it~~ could come any day now.

~~And~~ why isn't it stopped - why ~~isn't~~ the marker ~~simply~~ removed? Because - say government officials - this would be ~~seen~~ viewed as "an attempt by the white man - to guard and thus preserve the secrets of his wealth and knowledge; thereby serving - only "to strengthen the hand of cult leaders." And officials add: "that's the last thing we want to do."

The Sepik River region is one of the weirdest tribal parts of that vast weird island of New Guinea where at least a million people still live in the Stone Age and where they speak hundreds of completely different languages.

The last time I went up the Sepik River, Warren, we visited an area where the members of one tribe has just eaten 35 of the members of their neighbor tribe - and where I heard an old chap say to his son: - "My boy you should never speak with someone in your mouth."

AUSTIN

Coming up this weekend at Austin, Texas - as perhaps you've heard by now -- formal dedication of the new Lyndon B. Johnson Library, an affair they are calling an old-style family reunion of national leadership over the last thirty years, And that - with good reason.

Expected guests - we are told today - including, besides L B J, President Nixon, Vice President Agnew - House Speaker Carl Albert; also, a couple of dozen or so Senators, congressmen and Cabinet officers, past and present; among them, several Democratic Presidential hopefuls - such as Hubert Humphrey, Edmund Muskie and Birch Bayh.

All of which has now prompted the Secret Service - to order the tightest security; recognizing the fact that ^{in Austin they have} ~~are that~~ "a lot of eggs in one basket."