

Thursday, January 28, 1971

RAILS

Washington again - the "great train plan, part two." Transportation Secretary John Volpe announcing today - a series of additions to the government's proposed nationwide rail passenger network; including new routes - running from Seattle to San Diego - from New Orleans to Los Angeles - from New York to Kansas City - from Washington to Chicago - from Norfolk to Cincinnati. Volpe adding that he also forgot previously to mention another proposed route running from Miami across to Tampa and St. Petersburg.

The Secretary observing that this new system - in his opinion - "is destined to launch the all-time comeback in the story of American transportation."

I hope we'll be around to see this miracle - come to pass, and to enjoy it!!

NEW YORK FOLLOW RAILS

~~In the same vein, some of these~~ ^{In} a New York address

today ~~by~~ the Nixon Administration's Number One "trust
buster," U.S. Assistant Attorney General Richard McLaren
A ~~lashing~~ ^{ed} out at the Interstate Commerce Commission; which
he accused of fostering higher rates - by rewarding "only
inefficiency." McLaren adding that he would like to see an
end to government regulation - as it pertains to railroads,
trucks and other surface transportation. ~~and this will be~~
~~on the grounds~~ ^{alone} That "competition should be allowed to
determine the price, quality and availability of transportation
services - as in ~~many~~ most other industries."

By the way, space officials reporting today that

Apollo-Fourteen's back-up crew - is also "up to the same
readiness" as the first string. For the first time, ready

to take over, if necessary - right up to the last minute.

Astronaut Chris/ Deke Slayton explaining the idea of a back-up

crew - "has been theoretical in the past, but it's a reality

now." They've done all that - if

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the halfway point today - in the countdown for Apollo-Fourteen. Up to now - a perfect sequence. With the weatherman adding to the general optimism today - predicting "satisfactory" conditions for Sunday's scheduled launch.

At the same time, the rugged men of Apollo-Fourteen ^{were} completing a final check of their extra-terrestrial housekeeping chores. This to permit a speedy clean-up - in the event of a space emergency. After which, astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa and Ed Mitchell ~~are returning~~ ^{are} once more to their spacecraft simulators.

By the way, space officials ^{said} ~~reporting~~ today that Apollo-Fourteen's back-up crew - is also "up to the same readiness" as the first string. For the first time, ready to take over, if necessary - right up to the last minute. Astronaut Chief Deke Slayton explaining the idea of a back-up crew - "has been theoretical in the past, but it's a reality now." They too are all set - if.

In Vietnam - the end of an era today. The U.S.

Command announcing ~~that~~ the last of America's Green Berets

- have begun packing their gear. This - we are told - in

preparation for final withdrawal within a month. ~~US~~

Also we hear

~~sources adding that~~ the tentative schedule for similar

withdrawal of all U.S. air combat units - is now ^{set for} the end

of this year. ~~and~~ so - the war continues to wind down.

ROGERS FOLLOW VIETNAM

Here at home - Secretary of State ~~William~~ Rogers -

appeared ^{ed} today before the Senate Foreign Relations
Committee; attempting to ~~drive~~ ^{drive} home - the same point.

~~Sec.~~ ^{See.} Rogers saying the U.S. has no intention - of
escalating the air war over Cambodia; nor have we any
intention of sending ground troops into that country.-

~~said he:~~

KANSAS CITY

Vice President Spiro Agnew - paying a Kansas City call today at the bedside of former President Truman. Spiro Agnew later telling reporters - Mr. Truman "looked wonderful." The Vice President adding that Mr. Truman "reminisced a little" - and "made some observations about some important historical things." All of which Mr. Agnew said he found - "most enjoyable." And he stressed that Mr. Truman's "candor - has not diminished."

WHITE HOUSE

From the White House comes an announcement that President and Mrs. Nixon - will be flying to the Virgin Islands this weekend; there to spend a brief working vacation - at the Caneel Bay plantation resort owned by Lawrence Rockefeller. White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler says the President intends to spend most of his time - polishing up those future messages he plans to send to Congress. These to deal mainly with domestic programs.

DRAFT FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

In ~~the~~ *yes and* ~~the~~ *today* President, ~~submitting~~ *ed* to

Congress ~~today~~ a request for a two-year extension of
the draft; also, an end to undergraduate student deferments
- as well as exemptions for divinity students. The President
further asking an appropriation of One-and-a-Half Billion -
to raise military pay scales and otherwise "enhance the
quality of military of life." This to help establish an all-
volunteer Army - said he - hopefully, ~~by~~ the end of
Nineteen-Seventy-Three.

Elsewhere in Washington - the nomination of Rogers

Morton as new Interior Secretary ← was approved by the

Senate ~~today~~, without dissent. Senate Minority Leader

Hugh Scott expressing confidence that Morton will satisfy

the "just concerns" of conservationists - ^{as he put it:} ~~to his own words,~~

"just like Secretary ^{Wally} ~~Michel~~ did."

CONNALLY FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

Meanwhile, the President's choice for new Treasury

Secretary - was appearing today before the Senate Finance

Committee. Former Texas Governor John Connally saying

he would urge the President - "in the strongest of terms" -

to invoke his personal prestige in the battle against

excessive wage and price increases. Connally also said the

Administration is considering a complete revision of the

nation's tax laws - to include, hopefully, cuts in both income

and property taxes.

CERVINIA

In the world bobsled competition at Cervinia, Italy - another accident today; which makes nearly a dozen up to now - including at least one fatality. This latest - involving a British four-man bobsled; which jumped the bank on a sharp turn - flipping over in mid-air.

~~Luckily no one seriously injured. However, the~~

^{The} British crew including ^{of} Prince Michael of Kent - a twenty-eight-year-old cousin of Queen Elizabeth; who was knocked unconscious - and later hospitalized, with ~~a cut chin and a badly bruised left arm.~~

Incidentally, this marking the first time that a member of the British Royal Family - has ever taken part in a world championship sporting event. First and possibly last time - for a while, anyway.

At the City of Khabarovsk in the Soviet Far East - a rare visit today from Prokopy Bogachov - whose name is practically a household word in Russia. Prokopy Bogachov, at present - the ranking member of a family whose members have roamed the vast Siberian Taiga - the endless forest - for centuries. Their special claim to fame - an uncanny knack for trapping the huge Siberian tiger; and their exploits - have been the subject of several books and films.

As might be expected - all this calling for a special interview; with a reporter from Tass asking Prokopy Bogachov - how does one go about tackling a Siberian Tiger? Nothing to it - said Prokopy Bogachov. Adding: "All you have to know is exactly which side to approach - and which paw to grab."

Hmmm, I must remember that - next time I'm in the Siberian taiga. I was, you may recall, in Khabarovsk last June. In the taiga too - but saw nary a Siberian tiger. They are getting rare. So I may never have to try Prokopy Bogachov's scheme - Warren.

LONDON

This next - from London; the story of Florence Jennett - age thirty-three when she applied for a life insurance policy. But the doctors looked her over - and promptly turned her down. She had a bad heart - they said - she was a poor risk.

Ah, but that was seventy years ago - and Florence Jennett is still going strong; celebrating today - her one-hundred-and-third birthday! Miss Jennett observing dryly:

That was quite a ^{they made} ~~They certainly made a big mistake~~ with me. ^{want it?!}