

President Johnson's final bequest to the nation - as you may have heard by now - a record One Hundred and Ninety-Five Billion-dollar budget; including - hopefully - a Three-point-Four Billion surplus.

LBJ formalizing the figures - in a White House budget-signing ceremony today. His accompanying message - a review of what he called with pride - "an impressive record of achievements" in the White House. Adding that the government he will hand over to President-elect Nixon - is "strong, solvent, compassionate;" a government under which - America has experienced "unprecedented economic growth."

The President concluding: "I'm not going to leave town as a bitter man - I'm going to leave town as a happy and thankful man."

Packard Electronics Co.

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- only loss - under the trust arrangement. He further told

CAPITOL HILL FOLLOW BUDGET

Elsewhere in Washington - the changing of the guard begins; with the Senate opening confirmation hearings today - on three major Nixon appointees.

Secretary of State-designate William Rogers - appeared before a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and later was quoted as saying the new Administration will proceed "as fast as we can" - to achieve a negotiated peace in Vietnam. As far as confirmation is concerned - no problem there.

Another story though - in the case of David Packard. The Deputy Defense Secretary-designate - facing a series of sharp questions before the Senate Armed Forces Committee. Most of them dealing with his plans to place in trust - a Three Hundred Million-dollar interest in the Hellett Packard Electronics Co.

Packard assuring the committee - he can gain nothing - only lose - under the trust arrangement. He further told

the committee: "If I worried about that Three Hundred Million - I wouldn't get anything else done - so I don't think a thing about it."

While all this was going on - Governor Hickel of Alaska was facing the Senate Interior Committee. The Secretary of Interior-designate - perhaps the most controversial of all the new Nixon appointees. When asked to explain his recent objection to "conservation just for conservation purposes," said Wally Hickel: "I know what exploitation is - I'm against it." He added that he also opposes - "desecration" of so-called "wilderness" areas. But his major goal - said he - is to encourage "the wise use, management, development - and conservation - of our entire nation's natural resources."

MOSCOW-SPACE

Russia's Soyuz-Four and Soyuz-Five spaceships -
in tandem orbit tonight high above this planet earth.
According to Western experts - apparently headed for ~~the~~
docking in space - perhaps tomorrow; to include - maybe -
an exchange of one or more crew-members. Both necessary
to the Soviets' announced goal - of building an orbiting
space station.

By the way - Moscow television ^{today} presented a live
telecast ~~today~~ from Soyuz-Five. Showing - among other things
- something new in space decor; A picture of Lenin -
fastened to the cabin wall.

PARIS

The French press - still up in arms over government
accusations of alleged Israeli influence. As a result -
French newsmen boycotted a press briefing today following a
DeGaulle Cabinet meeting.

Be that as it may - the news getting out via the
official French news agency - also, foreign reporters. With
DeGaulle again calling for "Big Four" meetings at the U.N. -
to try to find - and guarantee - a peaceful solution to the
Mideast crisis.

PEACE

Paris again - U.S. and South Vietnamese peace negotiators met today in secret session. **T**rying to find an acceptable solution - to the current procedural deadlock on peace talks.

Results - hard to tell. However, Western sources - predict ~~ing~~ another such meeting tomorrow; to complete work, hopefully, on a new package deal - for Communist consideration. Probably the last - before the arrival of a new Nixon peace team.

SAIGON FOLLOW PEACE

Speaking of arrivals - U. Alexis Johnson was an arrival today in Saigon. The U.S. Ambassador to Japan - who is soon to become a top State Department official - launching a special three-day inspection tour for Richard Nixon, Even as American bombers pounded enemy troop positions - barely seventy miles from the South Vietnamese capital.

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This is bluster in part - on a new breed of Americans. Those who have never known the fear of depression - who are convinced that what goes up - can only go higher.

Economist Walter Hoadley of the Bank of America² - latest to analyze the current inflationary spiral in the U.S. Coming up with the conclusion - it's the result of a "new dimension" in American thinking.

"Traditionally" - says he - "the American consumer reacted to higher prices by saying - if that car or whatever costs so darn much - I'm not going to buy it." An attitude that helped to hold the price line. Where now - says he - Americans are beginning to show for the first time - a willingness to buy, whatever the price.

This he blames in part - on a new breed of Americans. Those who have never known the fear of depression - who are convinced that what goes up - can only go higher.

GARY FOLLOW MOSCOW-SPACE

~~Coming back to earth~~ - Frank Borman was accorded a hero's welcome today in his home town - Gary, Indiana. The Apollo Eight commander taking this opportunity - to call for worldwide cooperation in space exploration. Said he: "When we colonize the moon - we can all cooperate."

Anyone want to reserve some space on the Moon?! Or Warren - are you more interested in Moonshine?

STOCKHOLM

From Stockholm comes a story today - of "Swedish backlash." Swedish businessmen, opposition politicians and ordinary citizens - reacting at last to the government's anti-U.S. policy. Also, calling for crackdowns - on young leftist demonstrators.

As one observer ^v put it: "All the leftists know of the United States is 'Bonnie and Clyde' - they don't remember that the U.S. saved Europe first from Hitlerism - and then from Stalinism."

Another Swede - who travels frequently to the U.S. - asserting that Sweden's recent actions have already colored his relations with Americans. "Now" - said he - "I just let people think I'm a Dutchman."