

Wednesday, April 4, 1973

MEAT

In the fourth day of a nation-wide meat boycott - meat sales across the country are said to be off about seventy percent. An estimated five thousand packing house workers - have also been laid off. And the number of cattle and hogs shipped to market - dropping by roughly one third.

For the most part though - meat prices have remained virtually unchanged. As a result, boycott leaders are now talking about extending their drive - through all of April. Chairman Ethel Rosen of the Women's War on Prices saying: "We want a twenty percent across-the-board-rollback on all food prices."

DETROIT

New car sales in the U.S. last month - one point one million. So announced today - from Detroit. The best month ever - in automotive history. Ford Vice President, Bennett Bidwell saying "It's an all out boom."

WASHINGTON

The launch date for America's new Skylab space station - was officially set today for May Fourteenth. The three men who will form it's first crew - to head aloft a day later.

Officials adding that the Skylab and Russia's new Salyut-Two - may cross paths as both circle the earth. But "the two ships will never come closer than one hundred miles to each other." And we hear "even that would be a coincidence."

ST. CHARLES

From Cairo, Illinois, to New Orleans - the rain-swollen Mississippi was running wild today. Along the way - flooding millions and millions of rich farm land. A big chunk of Louisiana - said to look like "one big pond." The death toll - hitting at least nineteen; with thousands more - left homeless.

Some refusing, however - to let go. At St. Charles, Missouri, for example - a highway levee was reported in dire danger of collapse. The residents of a near-by trailer park - said to be "sitting ducks." At last report though, still sitting tight.

MIAMI

For the second day in a row - South Florida was hit today by a massive power failure. This one - even worse than before. A spokesman later saying the trouble may involve the state's first nuclear - powered generator - which went into service only last fall.

PRESIDENT

President Nixon sent a letter of thanks today - to Senate Minority leader Hugh Scott; for Scott's role in helping sustain the Presidential veto of that two-point-six billion dollar Vocational Rehabilitation Bill. The President observing that said action was appreciated "by millions of Americans - who demand that we work together to avoid tax increases, higher costs, and boosts and interest rates."

Additionally, the President telling Scott: "Please re-lay to your troops" in the Senate - "my personal appreciation and my hopes that the winning combination you have forged will hang together - for further successes in coming budget tests."

SENATE

From Chairman Sam Ervin of the Senate special Watergate committee - a rare gesture of fair play; rare, at least - in partisan politics.

The Gentlemen from North Carolina - issuing an official statement today. In it, saying he was "concerned with certain news media accounts - attributable" to the Watergate committee; accounts "inferring" said he - "that H.R. Haldeman of the White House Staff - was involved in the break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Headquarters and other illegal activities."

Senator Ervin going on to say: "It's simply not true." "In the interest of fairness and justice" - said he - "the committee wishes to state publicly that at this time it has received no evidence of any nature linking Mr. Haldeman with any illegal activities."

PHOENIXVILLE

From the Army Valley Forge Hospital in Phoenixville, Virginia comes a picture of what it was really like in North Vietnamese POW camps. Major Floyd Kushner - the only physician captured by the communists - saying that some men lost as much as "forty to fifty pounds." "You've seen pictures of starving children in Biafra?" said he: "Well, that's typical of what American POW's looked like."

Major Kushner also told how some of the tortured POW's - "tried to blot out the world." "They'd lay on their beds" - said he - "sucking their thumbs and calling for mama." And there was even one man - he continued - who "sat on his bed with a blanket over his head - for two years!" The Major Kushner demanding: "Can you imagine that! Sitting on your bed with a blanket on your head - for two years?"

JERUSALEM

In the Middle East - Jerusalem - an all-night session of the Israeli Knesset - sparked by heated and often raucous debate - on a bill sponsored by Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, one that would give her ruling labor party and it's cheap opposition - a better chance of winning seats in coming elections. The marathon coming to an end at seven this morning - when the bill was finally passed.

Before they adjourned though - the Israeli legislators also voting to clean up the record; thereby, expunging certain Arabic curses - which somehow found their way into the debate. Why Arabic? Because - an observer explained - "Hebrew has no really first rate four letter words."

BONN

Willy Brandt of West Germany - today accepted an invitation to visit President Nixon - the first of May.

The Chancellor's announcement came following a heated attack from opposition leader Ranier Barzel; who charged that Brandt was permitting "growing neutralism and anti-Americanism - to go hand-in-hand with the disparagement of anti-communism."

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - the publication of previously secret documents are said to show an attempt on the part of Pope Pius-the-Twelth - to bring about Italy's "honorable" withdrawal from World War Two.

This - we are told was in July of Nineteen Forty-Three - at the request of President Roosevelt. But to no avail. Mussolini and King Victor Emanuel - both rejecting the Pope's plea. The King also scoffing - at a suggestion of possible amnesty. "To say a single 'we will treat you well' " - he wrote the Pope - "could mean 'instead of hanging you, we will cut off your head.'"

In any case, Italy did officially surrender unconditionally less than two months later.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

From Buckingham Palace - an announcement today that Britain's Prince Phillip will soon be going to Russia and to the Ukraine. The Prince accepting a Kremlin invitation - to attend the European riding Championships this summer in Kiev. His and the Queen's daughter - Princess Anne is expected to be one of the contestants. If so, Phillip and Anne will become the first members of the British Royal Family - ever to visit Soviet Russia.

For Phillip - this will also constitute something of a home coming. After all the Prince is a direct descendant of TSAR Nicholas the First - his great, great, great, grandfather. He was also a first cousin - once removed - Nicholas-the-Second; who was brutally assassinated in the Bolshevik revolution over fifty years ago.

GANGTOK

Over seas again - a diplomatic trouble shooter from New Delhi was dispatched today to Gangtok Capitol of the Himalayan principality of Sikkim. This - at the request of the Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgual of Sikkim; following a series of demonstrations - in the Sikkimese capitol. The members of two minority parties - claiming that recent elections to Sikkim's national council were rigged.

The Kingdom of Sikkim, as you know is an Indian protectorate. The Chogyal, therefore, deciding - we are told - it was time to get some expert advice. Indian officials adding that if troops are needed - they too, will be sent.

PARIS

The hottest new look in Paris fashions - the so called "Fanny Sweater" said to be causing a sensation - in this week's fall and winter showings. The "Fanny Sweater" as you'd guess and as its name implies - a sweater that's a hip hugger and then some. Best worn - we are told - by tooth pick thin mannequins - or those willing to accept diets or tight girdles or both.

Indeed, the "Fanny Sweater" is such a hit - it was even condemned today by the French Academy of medicine; not only the "Fanny Sweater" but all figure clinging clothes. The French physician - in his Rubens-type wisdom, claiming that women were never meant to be thin. Adding, in fact: - did you know Bill? - "Women must have four times as much fat on their bodies - as men."

PENTAGON

This next - from the Pentagon; an item released today - perhaps with the trivia collector uppermost in mind. At any rate, the Pentagon reports that U.S.G.I's in Vietnam - from Nineteen-Sixty-Six through Nineteen-Seventy-Two - consumed, among other things, two billion, two hundred million bottles and cans of beer - two billion, four hundred million bottles and cans of soft drinks - and ninety-eight million pounds of catsup. And ~~za~~ from KSL Salt Lake City, so long until tomorrow.