

Wed. Dec. 18-74

WHITE HOUSE

~~On the domestic front~~ President Ford was moving today to "put his house in order." The President ordering a reorganization of his White House staff - with four of his key aides ^{to be} ~~becoming, henceforth~~, "Cabinet-rank advisers." These including Presidential counselors Robert Hartman and John Marsh, - legal counsel Philip Buchen, - and Presidential Assistant Donald Rumsfeld; all of whom will advise the President - on "the full range of policy issues."

Meanwhile, Claude Brinegar ^{has} resigned ^{ed} ~~today~~ as Secretary of Transportation. His successor ^{is} expected to be a Chicago ^{an} ~~man by the name of~~ John Robson - who once worked as an aide to Rumsfeld when the latter was a Congressman.

KREMLIN

After months and months of seeming vacillation -
the Kremlin has finally laid it on the line. Through the
Soviet news agency Tass, ^{today} rejecting ~~today~~ any trade deal
with the U.S. - tied to an easing of Soviet emigration
policies.

The Kremlin also criticizing Secretary of State
Kissinger and others - for indicating that such a deal
has already been made; saying it "flatly rejects as
unacceptable - any attempts, from whomever they may come,
to interfere in ^{Russia's} internal affairs; - that ^{they} are entirely the
concern of the Soviet state and no one else." Tass adding
that, indeed, U.S. failure to lift trade restrictions ^{na}
unconditionally - is a clear violation of the Nineteen-
Seventy Two U.S. ~~and~~ [^] Russian summit agreement.

JACKSON FOLLOW KREMLIN

Reaction here at home - led by Senator Jackson of Washington; who said the Soviet statement - "is probably in the face-saving category." Jackson adding that whatever the Kremlin does - it will not stop Congress from attempting to ease the emigration of Soviet Jews.

The State Department further insisting - there is still an "understanding" on the matter. And ^{that} the Kremlin statement ~~we are told~~ ^{is} "obviously not a formal repudiation." ~~But how it will all come out - we'll have to wait and see.~~

CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill--the House today completed passage of a new, compromise foreign aid bill. This one allowing the U.S. to continue its military aid to Turkey--till February, at least.

The House also passing a Five-and-a-Half Billion-Dollar bill--to create new jobs and pay more to the unemployed. The Senate ^{is} expected to do the same--probably tomorrow.

RIYADH

From Riyadh - a report that Saudi Arabia has agreed to lend the World Bank - Seven Hundred and Fifty Million of its new-found oil wealth. This the biggest single loan - ever extended to the World Bank; to be used in providing financial assistance - to developing nations; with repayment - spread over ten years.

Saudi Arabia's King Faisal also agreeing to make a personal contribution of nearly Half-a-Million - to a Palestinian educational fund. The money to be used ~~to~~^{for} build ~~a~~ a new Palestinian Studies Institute in Beirut.

ATHENS

Veteran jurist Michael Stassinopoulos, ^{today} was elected

~~today~~ the first President of the new Greek Republic.

Stassinopoulos, hand-picked for the job by Greek Premier

Caramanlis, ^{will be the} ~~to remain~~ President - at least, till the

drafting of a new Constitution.

URDULIX

Two more rural policemen were shot and killed today - in the town of Urdulix in the Basque region of Northern Spain. Basque separatists in the area thus claiming a total of four police victims - in less than twenty-four hours.

BORDEAUX

In France - the Great Bordeaux Wine Case ~~was~~

~~finished~~ ended today ↗ with the conviction and sentencing of

eight of an original

~~twenty~~ eighteen defendants. The alleged mastermind

of the plot to sell cheap wine under expensive labels -

wine broker Pierre Bert - getting a year in jail. ~~But the~~

The others found
~~remained~~ of the guilty - ~~placed~~ ^{get} on three-year's probation.

Light indeed.

~~After all the hoopla - a comparative slap on the wrist.~~

DENVER

Colorado General Hospital in Denver - the scene of two weddings this week. ~~At first glance, a common enough occurrence~~ People often getting married in hospitals, ~~but these~~ ^{don't they? These however are} the first marriages ever - in Colorado General's maternity ward. The brides later adjourning to delivery rooms, - ~~and~~ Presto, instant families.

MCKINNEY

At McKinney, Texas - appropos of the season -

a letter to Santa Claus by way of the local newspaper:- *The*

letter read,

"Dear Santa," ~~it said~~ "for Christmas this year, I

would like very much for you to get me a man - from

Five-Seven to Six-Two in height - in his early Twenties -

loves sports - loves to be around people - likes to party

a lot." ~~And it was~~ signed: "Love always, Sweet Pea."

Oh, yes - there was also a P.S. Sweet Pea

~~advising~~ *telling* Santa, lest there be any doubt: ^{Yes,} "I am in my right

mind."