

Tues, Dec, 30-69.

The, ^{Mrs.} President Nixon - ~~his wife~~ - and daughter Tricia
^{today} flew to the Western White House, at San Clemente,
 California, ~~today and~~ For the President ^{this may} ~~at least~~, it will
 be a ten day vacation ^{but one} that includes both work and play.
 While at his West Coast ^{home} ~~residence~~, he ^{will} ~~must~~ make final
 decisions on the Federal Budget, - and, write his first State
 of the Union address, ^{This he will} ~~to be delivered~~ ^{when} Congress
 reconvenes on January 19th. ¶ Before leaving Washington,
 the President signed into law three bills; - mine safety, -
 defense appropriations, - and, the tax reform bill ^{with} the most
 far reaching tax ^{conditions} ~~legislation~~ since ^{an} the income tax was ^{introduced}
^{in this country} ~~adopted~~ back in 1913. The measure, ^{as you have heard,} provides lower taxes
 and other relief for more than sixty million Americans, ^{and}
^{at the same time} ~~and~~ includes a fifteen percent boost in Social Security
 benefits. ¶ Taxpayers will first notice the difference in their
 paychecks next week when the present ten percent surcharge
 goes down to five percent, ^{which} ~~that~~ will reduce the withholding

tax slightly. ^{When he} ~~he~~ ^{ed} signing the bill, the President ^{observed} ~~noticed~~

that the Treasury will lose about three billion dollars in

revenue. ^{Moreover he termed} ~~He also called~~ the measure "inflationary",

^{that while} saying "the tax reforms, on the whole, are good - the

effect on the budget and the cost of living, is bad." ^{He's} ~~He's~~ not happy about the tax bill, as you know, ~~the~~ Defense spending ~~measure~~ calls for

expenditures of nearly seventy billion dollars, even though

more than five and a half billion was cut from the original

request. ^{This is} ~~It is~~ the largest reduction in an administration

defense request since the end of the Korean War. ^RIn Boston,

^{one} ~~an~~ MIT political scientist - Dr. William Kaufman - says

forty billion dollars should be cut from Pentagon requests

once the Vietnam War is over. This, he says, would buy

a tremendous amount for our floundering domestic program.

DESTROYER

Senate investigators say that even though the Navy paid an extra ninety-six million dollars to a contractor for a new destroyer escort - the ship was defective and under-equipped when finally delivered. When confronted with these facts and figures at a Senate hearing, a Navy witness replied - "we goofed." @ 96 mil - goof - is some goof.

VIETNAM

Military spokesmen in Saigon say Communist guns have opened up against Allied units in several areas - clearly in violation of the enemy's own New Year's truce. Observer's in Saigon also say North Vietnam may be drastically changing its military strategy - putting less emphasis on major offenses and devoting more time to guerilla warfare. This revision, they say, appears to be signaled in recent statements by two top officers of the North Vietnamese high command.

In Paris, American delegates to the peace talks handed the Communist representatives a list naming all fourteen hundred U.S. servicemen missing in action. And the Communists were asked to specify - for humanitarian reasons - which ones are prisoners and which are known to be dead. This touched off a verbal clash between the negotiators - with the Communist delegate denouncing the request as a "perfidious maneuver." It's still the somewhat mysterious East.

MIDEAST

Low clouds and heavy rains hide the movement of those five French ~~made~~ ^{built} Israeli gunboats as they continue ~~to sail~~ ^{their} Eastward ^{voyage} through the stormy Mediterranean. With ^{now we hear is} them, a flotilla of Israeli warships - on guard against a possible Arab attack from ~~the~~ air or ~~on the~~ sea. Egypt has accused Israel of stealing the gunboats from France - and officials in Paris are hard pressed to explain how the vessels slipped out of Cherbourg harbor on Christmas Day and headed for the Mideast - despite a French embargo on arms to Israel.

Cairo reports that Egyptian commandos crossed the ~~Suez~~ ^{of Suez} Gulf under cover of darkness - destroying an Israeli paratroop camp in the Southern Sinai Desert. In Tel Aviv, a spokesman admits a series of explosions were heard in the desert - but denies a camp was destroyed.

X In another development, an Israeli court ruled that Australian Denis Rohan was mentally ill last August when

he set fire to ^{Alaska} ~~the~~ Mosque in Jerusalem, ^{- next door to The Dome of the Rock} He was ordered committed to a hospital for treatment.

In Washington, AFL-CIO president, George Meany ^{is} describing the U.S. labor movement as a "friend of the Israeli people" - ^S charged the Nixon administration with responding to pressure from U.S. oil interests by - as Meany put it - "abandoning Israel and appeasing the Arabs."

CLIMBERS

Eleven members of a climbing party have reached the eleven thousand six hundred foot level in the annual New Year's assault on ^{the} Grand Teton, ^{a mountain in Wyoming.} ~~Peak~~ Rangers at the base have made radio contact with Paul Petzoldt, the expedition's ^{veteran} sixty-one year old leader. ^{Paul} ~~the~~ reported sub-zero temperatures and bitter winds on the mountain which towers more than thirteen thousand feet above ^{one} ~~of~~ the most spectacular mountain areas in the world. ~~Northwestern Wyoming.~~ The forecast is for continued high ~~and dangerous~~ winds during this - the fifth attempt by Paul Petzoldt to scale the Grand Teton on New Year's Day. His other efforts were beaten back by hundred mile an hour winds and freezing temperatures.

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WEATHER

More snow ^{all the way} ~~fell again~~ from North Texas to

Missouri; - and, heavy rain sent ^{driving} rivers over their banks in the Southern Appalachians. ~~It was~~ Another day of bitter

cold in the Northern Plains. - ^{For the most part fairly cold} ~~and it remained cold enough~~

^{right} across most of the nation. More than fifty families were

moved out of homes near Harlan, Kentucky, where the

upper Cumberland River is ~~steadily~~ rising. Highways

flooded at several points in West Virginia, Tennessee,

Virginia and Mississippi. [^] In snowbound Vermont, the one

hundred thirty-first army engineers - who only a few weeks

ago were battling heat ^{leeches and snakes} ~~and tigers~~ in Vietnam - ~~are~~ now in

^{51/4 Vermont are} ~~battling the cold, and~~ clearing away mountainous snowdrifts.

[^] They say they prefer Vermont to Vietnam. [^]

^(R) Today ~~and~~ when electric power failed in many homes near Wichita

Falls, Texas, one housewife ^{said} ~~recorded~~ - "we're taking the

meat from the deep freeze and putting it out of doors."

BAREFOOT

It never snows in the African Congo - and that's why - no doubt - a Congolese army Sergeant is in a hospital at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, tonight, after a barefooted walk through the snow. Twenty-eight-year-old Sergeant Mbayo Constantin - in this country for military training - was a Christmas guest at a home near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He went for a walk in the snow and lost his direction. Several hours later he was found sitting on the front porch of a home, suffering from ~~a severe case of frost bitten~~ ^{frozen} feet.

^{Mbayo} Sergeant Constantin told authorities that, as he walked through the snow, his shoes became ~~so~~ wet and soggy, ~~that~~ ^{so} he took ~~them~~ [!] off, not realizing his feet might freeze.

In Montreal, another barefooted walker is in a hospital, ~~but~~ for a different reason. Caesar Ramon - an entertainer who makes his living swallowing light bulbs and walking barefoot across fire - was doing his thing before camera in a television studio when something went wrong.

He walked across a flaming platform - gulped down a
couple of light bulbs - ~~but twenty~~ ^{and} minutes later third degree
burns began to show on his feet. The program is called

"Occult" - and deals with the unexplainable. No wonder!

of s'l-u-t-m.

Wed. Dec. 31st. 69.

The Viet Cong radio - in a New Year's Eve broadcast - called on Communist forces to deliver what it termed - "decisive blows" against the Allies during the coming year. The broadcast came as American and Allied troops began a twenty-four hour holiday truce; ^{while} ~~even though they~~ ^{did} ~~remained~~ ^{on} ~~an~~ ^{the} alert status. Just before the cease-fire began, military spokesmen in Saigon reported that at least two-hundred-fifty enemy troops were killed during the past two days - in the heaviest fighting since December 1st.

In Washington, the ~~State~~ State Department sent an expression of regret to the Cambodian government - over casualties inflicted upon Cambodian forces during a battle along the border last month. The Cambodians claimed twenty-five of their military personnel were killed in fighting between the Viet Cong and the American troops.

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A Pentagon survey shows that one thousand