

Wed. Dec. 17 - 69.

President Nixon sent a letter to congressional leaders of both parties today - asking that they join him in holding down government spending in order to ~~maintain~~ <sup>encourage</sup> confidence in the national economy.

"This we should do" said the President "no matter what the cost in political popularity." He pointed out that although he established <sup>a</sup> spending ceiling for the ~~current~~ current fiscal year, Congress has already jeopardized that ceiling by the passage of several bills involving increased spending.

VIETNAM

Official sources in Saigon say Communist infiltration of troops and supplies through Laos into South Vietnam has shown a ~~significant~~<sup>real</sup> increase in recent weeks. They say the trucks are ~~rolling~~ rolling day and night along the ~~paths and~~ rough roads that ~~make up~~<sup>are</sup> the Ho Chi Minh Trail. ~~On~~<sup>Says an</sup> ~~spokes~~<sup>spokesman</sup> ~~has this analysis~~  
"we're convinced the enemy is building capability for the option of major offensives".

## ANTI WAR

The House ~~major~~ Internal Security Committee reports that organizers of the recent anti-war demonstrations in Washington and elsewhere are planning a new strategy -- one that would emphasize resistance to taxes and the draft. Committee Chairman Ichord says this would involve resistance against all taxes, picketing at super markets to protest rising prices, and demonstrations against ~~business~~ firms <sup>that</sup> ~~in which~~ have military contracts -- perhaps <sup>even</sup> including disruption of stockholder meetings.

Diplomatic sources in London say Russia has turned down Egypt's requests for newer and more sophisticated types of offensive weapons needed - the Egyptians believe - to bring about "a military solution" to the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Kremlin is reported in something of a quandary over the demands. <sup>While</sup> Soviet leaders are anxious to retain ~~their~~ Arab good will <sup>maybe they also</sup> ~~but they're~~ ~~apparently more~~ <sup>are</sup> anxious to avoid involvement in an all-out Middle East War.

Israel launched new air raids against Egypt today - in reprisal for artillery ~~for~~ bombardments across the Suez Canal in which four Israelis were killed. Cairo says three Israeli planes were shot down.

PENTAGON

A former government official says the Pentagon is wasting at least five billion dollars a year on a small number of major projects - and he claims such waste will ~~not~~ continue until pressure is applied by the public.

Ernest Fitzgerald, a former deputy assistant ~~to~~ Air Force Secretary, made these comments in Birmingham, Alabama, before a local civic club. Last year Fitzgerald's ~~as~~ Air Force job was eliminated after he told a ~~not~~ congressional committee about a two billion dollar cost over-run in the C-Five-A, cargo airplane program. (He attributes the blame for these spiraling military costs to what he calls the "Folklore" of defense operations. "The idea is," says he, "the more we spend for defense, the ~~more~~ better defense we will have. It's like the ancients - you used to give to the war gods to insure their own protection.")

AVIATION

*Just 66*  
~~It was sixty~~ years ago today ~~that~~ two brothers

from Dayton, Ohio, proved to the world that man could fly,

~~indeed, build a motorized airplane that would fly.~~ Wilbur

and Orville Wright, who operated <sup>their</sup> a bicycle shop at Dayton

~~66 yrs. ago,~~ <sup>made</sup> ~~their~~ historic first powered flight at Kitty

Hawk, North Carolina in Nineteen Oh Three. Today ceremonies

commemorating the event were held at the U S Air Force

Museum in Dayton where the Wrights had developed their

aircraft. Among those attending were Mrs. Wiley Post -

Jimmy Doolittle and Will Rogers Jr. *I also had hoped to be there, but couldn't make it.*

*(At* Marietta, Georgia the world's biggest airplane

- the C-Five transport - was formally turned over to the

Air Force today. <sup>(has)</sup> ~~It was~~ a wing-span of two-hundred-twenty-

three feet and a length of two-hundred-forty-eight feet. *Why*

*that's* a distance even longer than the distance flown by the Wrights

*66 yrs ago* ~~that day~~ at Kitty Hawk.) *TR* About eighty percent of General

Aviation's ~~family~~ fatal accidents are caused by pilot error.

And - says a government safety report - the biggest offender is the pleasure pilot - the "occasional flyer." (also, we learn that pleasure flying - General Aviation's biggest category is npt ~~for~~ growing as ~~fast as it used to~~ rapidly as a few yrs. ago.)

Speaking of pilot error - on a highway today a plane swooped down and crashed within yards of us. 3 men crawled out - unscathed. ~~Their plane a wreck.~~ A sunny clear day too - and the pilot said: - "Oh, we ran out of gas!"  
Their plane a wreck!

# SAUCERS

The Air Force has decided to quit chasing flying saucers -- or put it another way -- it's calling off ~~an~~ <sup>that</sup> investigation of unidentified flying objects -- U F O's -- which has been going on <sup>now</sup> for more than twenty years.

Air Force Secretary Robert Seamans says the program no longer can be justified, ~~xxx~~ "either on the grounds of national security or in the ~~interest~~ interest of science."

Since the program, known as project blue book, began in Nineteen Forty Eight the Air Force has investigated more than seven thousand flying saucer reports ~~xxx~~ without finding evidence of danger to national security - or indeed any firm proof that ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> such things exist.



**DRUG**

*Police warn that five glass tubes of deadly M-99- Etrophine stolen from a laboratory at Stanford University contain enough of the crystalized drug to kill more than two thousand people. In diluted form, the chemical is used to tranquilize elephants and other large beasts for capture in the jungle. Full strength kills humans on contact. Urgent ~~max~~ warnings have been issued to whoever stole the drug or anyone who finds the missing six tubes.*

## SANTA CLAUS

The Christmas spirit suffered something of a setback in London today when police arrested twelve Santa Clauses for illegal picketing. The Santas <sup>all</sup> ~~were~~ members of a new labor union known as the Brotherhood of Father Christmas and Santa Claus Union. Bearing signs and placards they were marching up and down the sidewalk in front of a department store on Oxford Street — that sounds like Selfridges — when the police swooped down and charged them with ~~obsc~~ obstructing the sidewalk. Too many Santas interfering with Xmas!

# SUPER FLEA

**Ann**

An Australian scientist - Dr. Edgar Riek - says

he's made a remarkable discovery in Victoria's South

Grippsland District - he calls it the "super flea" - the

missing link <sup>in</sup> of the evolution of the flea. <sup>Prof</sup> Riek says <sup>the</sup> "Super

flea" probably lived one hundred twenty million years ago -

clinging to the fur of a prehistoric bandicoot. <sup>and that a</sup> ~~bandicoot~~ fossil

- dug up at Coonwarra - proves that fleas descended from

something like mosquitoes. <sup>Warren -</sup> I once was attacked by  
super-super fleas when I ~~made~~ made the  
mistake of spending a night in a 2000 yr,  
old Roman tomb in Arabia.

## DRINKING

About ninety five million Americans like to  
- of course  
have a drink now and then - some more often than others,  
^  
~~of course.~~ But those who combine drinking with driving  
are responsible for at least fifty percent of the nation's  
highway accidents. In addition, a national safety council  
report says drinking is becoming an increasing factor in  
- also a <sup>big</sup> factor in both  
private plane crashes, home, and on the job accidents.  
^  
~~Also,~~ We are <sup>again</sup> told that the effect of alcohol can be compounded  
when taken with drugs even drugs as common place as cold  
tablets.