

FOREIGN AID

Good Evening: The Administration and the Congress took a look at the wreckage of the foreign aid bill today - with the administration making strong pleas for its restoration.

White House news secretary Ron Ziegler - called passage of the bill imperative - and he quoted President Nixon as saying that failure to do so - would dilute and wreck the underpinnings of U.S. Foreign Policy.

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird met with the President for more than an hour- and came out to say - U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam may suffer - unless foreign aid is restored. He said that in order for Vietnamization to succeed - there must be economic progress as well as military progress - and the measure voted down by the Senate - contains Five-Hundred-Sixty-Five-Million dollars for economic programs - that are vital to the Vietnamization program - which in turn is aimed at U.S. withdrawal.

WHITE HOUSE-SENATE

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee - attempting a salvage operation; met in special session - in an attempt to work out a new bill. But Chairman Fulbright later admitted - the only consensus among members was "to do something as opposed to nothing."

This led to a brief Senate speech - by Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott; who charged that the Senate has "attempted to repeal the second chapter of the Book of Genesis - and declared, indeed, we are not our brothers' keepers."

WHITE HOUSE-SENATE

But Senate Democratic leader Mansfield - stuck by his prediction that there might be a filibuster - against any move to prevent the present foreign aid program from expiring - two weeks from now.

UNITED NATIONS

For the first time - a Communist Chinese banner was hoisted today at the United Nations, a red flag - bearing five gold stars; representing - for alphabetical purposes - "China, People's Republic of."

This amidst reports that Peking will move swiftly - to claim its seat at the U. N. According to some - perhaps as early as Friday.

EAST BERLIN

From Russia's touring Leonid Brezhnev - in East Berlin - a claim today that the Soviet Union is now engaged in a European "peace offensive;" which means - "an offensive against the hostile forces of reaction and war."

Brezhnev added that the present time - is "favorable for good changes;" in part, because "the principle of the inviolability of Europe's post-war borders - practically has general acceptance." The Soviet leader further said: "The prospects for the calling of an all-European meeting - on questions of security and cooperation - are becoming better;" raising hopes that that "in the not too far future" - as he put it - "we will be able to begin negotiations on a reduction of armaments and armed forces in Europe."

BHUBANESHWAR

The death toll from that cyclone and tidal wave that hit India's Orissa State - is now set at somewhere around three thousand, officially; but unofficially - perhaps as many as ten thousand. Reports reaching Bhubaneshwar - the capital of Orissa - adding that four million more have been left homeless; raising the threat of disease and famine - maybe yet to come.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "LONDON #3"

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*Next - Lowell Thomas; reporting again tonight -
direct from London. Lowell...*

SUGGESTED FOLLOW UP TO THOMAS TAPE "LONDON #3"

Thank you, Lowell.

More - after this.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - a House Committee hearing today on the pros and cons of playing football - on artificial turf. The "pros" present - mostly "con". Among them, Gus Holloman - a defensive back for the New York Jets; who told of developing a staph infection - after he scraped his elbow on one of those synthetic playing surfaces.

The committee also heard a deposition - from offensive tackle Ernie Wright of the Cincinnati Bengals; who complained - in the written statement that artificial turf is often slippery and thus dangerous - in many cases, even in dry weather. A fellow player adding that Wright would have stated his views in person - except that he was injured yesterday - while playing on artificial turf.