

Thursday, August 8, 1968

MIAMI BEACH

At the Republican National Convention - Miami Beach - as you know it's all over - almost. With Nixon winning the presidential nomination early today - a first-ballot victory - as you doubtless know by now he was selecting his running mate. A surprise choice it was too - Spiro Agnew - Governor of Maryland. Who he? Why he's the man behind "the man who" - indeed he - originally was a Rockefeller supporter. It was Agnew who gave Nixon a tremendous psychological boost by putting Maryland in the Nixon camp early this week; thereby perhaps clinching the Vice Presidential spot. As you know he nominated Nixon last night as "a man whose time has come - the man for Nineteen-Sixty Eight."

America's first Governor of Greek descent - Agnew is generally considered an expert on urban and state affairs; a liberal, by reputation - yet a bitter foe of street violence

MIAMI BEACH - 2

**and racial agitation. As such, thoroughly acceptable to
Republican leaders - both north and south, east and west.**

**Now begins the big job - to get elected. Richard
Nixon launching his campaign tonight - with an acceptance
speech already three weeks in the writing. Says Mrs. Pat
Nixon: "I feel like an astronaut's wife - when her husband
is shot into space."**

VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- the "people sniffers" ^{at it} ~~first~~

again. U. S. and South Vietnamese troops using their dread aroma [^]-detectors today - to track a North Vietnamese ~~infiltration~~ infiltration route. The trail leading to a huge enemy supply dump -- ~~containing~~ containing, among other things, a large quantity of rockets and four Russian-made trucks.

This ^{is} ~~is~~ the fifth day of an allied sweep - through the Shau Valley near Hue. American General Melvin Zais - in command of the operation -- telling his men: "Destroy everything we can!" Explaining that his ultimate goal - is to thwart an expected enemy attack against Hue.

"I can defend Hue best" - said he, "by hurting the enemy back where it all begins, [^] instead of standing on the moat - and fighting him in the city."

PRAGUE

For months now - Czech General Vaclav Prchlik has been one of the severest critics of the Warsaw Pact. Going so far as to demand a rotating leadership - instead of always a Russian commander. With the Kremlin finally forcing his ouster from the Czech government - on the eve of those Czech-Russian crisis talks of last week.

However, the crisis now past; - and so, apparently, is General Prchlik's exile from power. The Prague government announcing his nomination today -- as a candidate for the Czech Communist party Central Committee. (Czech party leader Dubcek - further expressing his "full confidence" in the General; as the Kremlin, no doubt, squirms again -- at the feeling "it's been had" once more.

WALTER REED

Among the many messages of congratulation
received today by Richard Nixon - ^{I'm sure} ~~perhaps~~ none more
welcome than ^{one} ~~that~~ from Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Former President Eisenhower ~~telling~~ telling his Vice
President - he was "delighted" at Nixon's nomination.

Ike noting, what's ~~so~~ more -- ^{how he himself} ~~he~~ was an "honorary
delegate" to the convention, ^{and} Adding: "I could have
been there and voted - then the winning total would
have been six-ninety three instead of six-ninety-two."

Better still - the news from Ike's doctors.

Reporting today that the seventy-seven year old General
continues to hold his own - in fighting back from his
sixth heart attack. With all vital signs said to be stable
-- no sign of infection; ^{this} leading the doctors to say - they
are "pleased" with his progress to date.

SAN ANTONIO FOLLOW WALTER REED

Meanwhile, President Johnson today completed the second phase of his annual physical checkup in San Antonio. Later, returning to the L B J Ranch with Lady Bird - who had just completed her checkup.

"Feeling fine" said the President. However he is due for a "more thorough" examination next week.

HOUSTON

0 1/2

The two co-holders of America's longest space endurance record - back together again today at the U S Manned Space Center in Houston. With astronaut James Lovell - newly assigned to fill a vacant spot on the third manned Apollo flight. Rejoining astronaut Frank Borman - with whom he spent two weeks in space aboard the Gemini-Seven -- way back in Nineteen Sixty Five. Lovell filling in for astronaut Mike Collins - who was sidelined recently by spinal surgery.

Third man on the crew - still Rookie

Astronaut William Anders, who will share with Borman and Lovell in the final "dress rehearsal" ^{they} ~~we~~ hope - for ^{the} manned flight to the Moon, Warren.

1 10

PITTSBURGH

The scene - a deserted street in Pittsburgh. With a fellow by the name of Robert Cuncic - walking along - minding his own business. When suddenly - a station wagon pulls up at the curb. The driver leans out - and says: "Hey, I'm a hired gunman from New York. Are there any bridges around here ~~where~~ where I can get rid of this body?"

Cuncic looked - and sure enough, there was a body. Whereupon he took off like a shot - to report the incident. The driver also racing away - only to be captured by police a short time later.

In the end - the self styled "gunman" finally identified as a local mortician. But he was tossed in the clink anyway -- on a charge of drunken driving.