

ATLANTA

Fri. Jan. 19 - '68,

From Canada to the Gulf of Mexico - from the Atlantic to the Rockies and beyond - influenza ~~is~~ sweeping the country. ~~Indeed, the disease now at Epidemic proportions over the entire United States - excluding only~~ ^{everywhere except on} the West Coast; according to ~~weekly~~ figures today - from the U S communicable disease center at ~~Atak~~ Atlanta.

~~The government tally showing~~ ^{The} Eastern U S hardest hit ~~by the flu bug,~~ ^{with} ~~But that as it may~~ the flu and pneumonia mortality rate for the entire country ^{is} up again for the second straight week. In part, because of an epidemic of pneumonia -- among the children of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Why ~~has~~ the West Coast ~~so far been~~ spared? ~~the ravages of flu?~~ Government doctors saying ~~that~~ West Coast residents have apparently built up an immunity to Asian flu -- ~~the worst strain of all,~~ as a result of previous exposure - during past epidemics.

WASHINGTON

Washington lawyer Clark Clifford - a top government adviser for more than twenty years - President Johnson's choice today to become the new Secretary of Defense; succeeding Robert McNamara -- who will leave soon to head the ~~xx~~ World Bank.

In announcing the appointment - L B J noting that ^{Clark} Clifford has been "a very wise and prudent counsellor" to three Democratic Presidents. Also serving in recent years - as Chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

At the same time - the President praising Robert McNamara -- for "truly outstanding service over seven grueling years." The President ~~and~~ adding: "I have never known a more competent public official."

VIETNAM

On the fighting front - in Vietnam - a U S special forces camp at Lang Vei was ~~ata~~ attacked today by an unidentified jet aircraft. South Vietnamese President Thieu later telling of reports of a dog-fight over the camp -- between a North Vietnamese Mig and a U S jet. If true -- the incident supposedly marking the first time - that North Vietnamese planes have penetrated southern air space.

However, U S headquarters saying it had no ~~infrom~~ information - on any such dogfight. An American officer adding that a Mig attack -- "seems remote as hell" -- as he put it. More likely - we are told - another accidental raid by U S planes; such as the one last ~~maxxh~~ March -- when two American jets mistakenly strafed the camp.

PALO ALTO

Palo Alto, California - a second major operation today - second in less than twenty four hours; for Mike Kasperak -- America's only surviving heart transplant patient.

~~The new surgery~~ ^{This in} an effort to ^{correct a} ~~slam continued~~ bleeding in the patient's gastro-intestinal tract. A condition earlier thought to ~~be~~ have been corrected, ~~to~~ an operation for bleeding ulcers last night.

~~This latest~~ [^] ~~Mike Kasperak's condition now~~ reported ~~as~~ "extremely serious."

SASEBO

For a third straight day - riot police battled leftist and pacifist demonstrators today at Sasebo, Japan; while the biggest ship ~~afloat~~ afloat - the nuclear-powered U S aircraft carrier Enterprise - was dropping anchor in ~~near~~ nearby waters.

The fighting over - a Japanese pacifist leader circled the "Big E" in a small boat; pleading with American sailors -- to desert ship in protest against the war in Vietnam. A pacifist sound car - later touring the entertainment section of Sasebo; again urging the swarm of sailors - on liberty at last - to join in the peace movement.

(You will recall - ~~you~~ four young American sailors did recently defect - under the prodding of these same pacifists.) At last report though - the men of the "Big E" were much more interested in Japanese maidens

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*in mini-skirts and beehive hairdos - that they were in
the "peaceniks."*

PARIS

The Concorde -- combined French and British version of the world's first supersonic jetliner - will fly this spring. That assurance today - from French transport Minister Louis Chamant, Apparently in answer to reports of serious differences - between French and British designers, following cancellation of the plane's inaugural flight - originally set for next month.

"In matters of this ~~ma~~ importance -- dates cannot always be kept with precision - explained Chamant. Adding, ~~however~~, that two of the plane's British -built engines have already been delivered - ~~and~~ ^{with} two more on the way. ~~Having~~ An automatic pilot system - also built by the British - the one remaining hold-up.

NORTH ATLANTIC

Here's ~~one~~ a story high adventure on the high seas. The wind-up of a two-day drama in the storm-tossed North Atlantic -- some ~~more~~ two hundred and fifty miles off ~~the coast of~~ Newfoundland; where the captain of a sinking Dutch ~~xx~~ freighter - the Ocean Sprinter - finally agreed today to abandon ship.

Thanks to an heroic effort by the men of the U S Coast Guard Cutter Absecon - mission accomplished with ^{out a hitch} ~~no delay or hitch~~. A rescue party from the Absecon - braving gale winds and mountainous waves - three times, in all. Safely removing all sixteen persons aboard the Ocean Sprinter - including one, a woman.

LONDON

~~From~~ London - ~~the story of~~ one Royden Granville

Barstow -- wealthy, retired bank executive, recently gazing at a magazine photograph of a blonde - lying nude on the deck of a cabin cruiser; when suddenly - a spark of recognition.

As Barstow later told his ~~law~~ lawyer -- he didn't know the face - but he certainly knew the keel. It was his own cabin cruiser - Starlight Two - apparently "pirated" by the nudie photographer. And as Barstow's lawyer today explained it in court -- the picture caused his client "great embarrassment, humiliation and distress."

Result - a public apology from the magazine. Calling use of Barstow's boat - a most regrettable error.
 ~~Warren~~ -
Once again, clearing the good name - of banker Royden Granville Barstow of Tooting on Thames.

SALISBURY

~~This next~~ from Salisbury, England. A status report today on those British army units -- recently returned from the heat of Aden; now an independent country - as you know.

Turns out - Britain's famed ~~asa~~ desert fighters - have just been reassigned to a military base at Alberta, Canada. There to trade their chukka boots for ski boots - to take part in a new Arctic weather training program.

Like the fellow says -- there's a right way - a wrong way -- and an army way. S-l-u-Monday.