

FRIDAY. Jan. 24, 1969
(Dallas Townsend)

HAVANA

Another aerial hijacking. A National Airlines jet with forty-seven people on board - en route from Key West to Miami - commandeered late this afternoon by a "kid with a knife." So said the pilot, reporting this latest piracy in mid-air. Soon afterward, the plane landed in Havana. Among the passengers - sixteen military personnel, presumably all based at Key West.

In Washington late today, President Nixon reversed an action taken by President Johnson five weeks ago - and recalled the controversial case involving airline routes across the Pacific. Mr. Johnson - on December nineteenth - approved Pacific routes for five airlines for the first time - Continental, Flying Tiger, Northwest, Pan American, and T W A. But now Mr. Nixon says "I have come to the conclusion that it is both appropriate and necessary for to rescind the prior presidential action taken, and

recall the matter for my further review and decision.

And the government has raised the ceiling on interest rates for mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration - from six and three-quarters to seven-and-a-half percent. George Romney, the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, says this is necessary to attract private loan funds now going elsewhere because of higher yields.

WHITE HOUSE

Last but far from least in the new Nixon Cabinet - Walter Hickel was finally sworn in today as Secretary of the Interior. The ceremony - again at the White House. Chief Justice Earl Warren presiding - as he did for the rest of the new Cabinet members; all eleven of whom were in attendance today - to see their ranks made complete at last.

President Nixon - who was also present, of course - seeming to take special delight in the occasion. Asserting at one point - he was never worried about Hickel's fate in the Senate. The President adding that the former Alaska governor had "already rendered service - far beyond the call of duty." This - said the President - because "he - not I - was the subject" of the first Herblock cartoon lambasting the new Administration.

Summing up - Mr. Nixon asserting: "The last shall be first - as far as this Administration is concerned."

PENTAGON FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Across the Potomac - at the Pentagon - David Packard was also sworn in today - as the new Deputy Secretary of Defense. His new boss - Secretary Melvin Laird - performing the honors; making it plain he's counting on Packard's vast business background - to keep the Pentagon humming.

In response - the former California industrialist saying he was "very honored" - that the Senate had ratified his appointment. Adding: "I consider this a solemn obligation on my part - to do the very best I can; to build and maintain the kind of military establishment - that this country has a right to expect."

MADRID ET AL

Students in revolt. In Spain, France, Italy, Holland - behind the Iron Curtain - in Japan, Pakistan, not to mention San Francisco - the academic community was seething with hostility today. Hostility that threatened to explode into violence - at any moment, if it hadn't already.

The government of Spain - perhaps hardest hit by the student uprising. As reflected in an order from Generalissimo Franco - declaring a state of modified martial law throughout that country. Giving police the power to search and arrest anyone - to hold him indefinitely. This following student riots that closed the University of Barcelona last week - the University of Madrid today.

In Prague - the Czech Army was placed on special alert today; against the threat of anti-Soviet demonstrations - at the funeral tomorrow of that Czech student who burned himself to death. The Czech government further warning against "provocative acts by extremist forces - which might have unforeseen consequences" - meaning

a return of open Soviet occupation.

PARIS

In Paris - Henry Cabot Lodge conferred today -
with newly-arrived South Vietnamese Vice President Ky.
The two men coordinated final details - in preparation
for the start of expanded talks tomorrow. Allied
diplomats emphasizing they will enter the negotiations -
from a position of "strength."

VIETNAM

Half a world away - the fighting goes on. With an enemy rocket scoring a direct hit - on a U.S. medical helicopter. Seven men aboard the helicopter - including three wounded G.I.'s - killed instantly.

To the North - U.S. troops finally captured that village near Zuang Ngai; where a force of Viet Cong diehards - had been holding out for five days. Debris was all that was left of the village - yielding up the bodies of some forty North Vietnamese regulars.

CORONADO

At Coronado, California - the Pueblo investigation continued behind closed doors today. Commander Lloyd Bucher telling the Naval Court of Inquiry - top secret details of the ship's capture.

Two Navy captains serving in Japan at the time - also summoned to testify in the closed session. These - Captain Thomas Dwyer - an intelligence officer; also, Captain Forrest Pease - chief of staff for the commander, Naval Forces Japan. Another expected witness - Rear Admiral Frank Johnson; then the Navy chief in Japan - now commandant of the Thirteenth Naval District, Seattle.

MOSCOW

In Moscow - the cosmonauts hold a rare public news conference. An event drawing more than two thousand journalists - scientists - diplomats. With Russia's first space walker - Alexie Leonov - first to take the microphone. Attempting to tell of his experiences in space - when the questioning turned abruptly to that shooting Wednesday outside the Kremlin.

This - because Leonov was one of the cosmonauts in the target car. He was also sporting a bruise on his right temple - the result of flying glass, he explained. Adding that the feeling of being shot at - is much like the feeling of being weightless in space. "It's hard to explain - and even more so to imitate" - said he. Whereupon his superiors - cut short the discussion. Reminding those present - the subject was space - not shooting.

ROME

Latest in way-out wedding fashions - is reported today from Rome. It's a kind of pirate-look - by Italian designer Daniele. Consisting of frilly white blouse - white sash - white buccaneer pants - white leather boots; also, a white satin bandana that doubles as a wedding veil - plus one giant ear ring.

To complete the ensemble - Daniele equipping his model with a bridal bouquet - in the shape of a dagger. According to one observer - the entire effect that of an outfit just perfect - for a shotgun wedding, Italian-style.