

Thursday, March 22, 1973

**NASHVILLE**

*At Nashville, Tennessee - Dean Rusk speaks out on amnesty for draft dodgers. The former Secretary of State saying: "I suppose at some time and in some fashion - there will be a form of amnesty because there always has been." But "this" - he continued - "is primarily a problem of the Congress - in relations to its own Constitutional power."*

*Dean Rusk adding, moreover - that Congress had better go slow; had better "give some thought as to how what we do now affects the ability to call up men in some future contingency." Or the next time - he continued - everyone might say: "Thank you very much - but I'll have some of your amnesty instead."*

SAIGON

*At Saigon - another snag today in Operation*

*Homecoming. The U.S. halting troop withdrawals from Vietnam - pending an accounting of the nine Americans still held in Laos. In turn, the Communist side accusing the U.S. - of reneging on its original agreement; also, threatening to hold up the scheduled weekend release of the last prisoners still held in Vietnam. For the moment, at least - an apparent standoff.*

**PRESIDENT**

Meanwhile, here at home - a brief White House statement. Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren saying: "There should be no confusion on this subject." Adding: "All captured U.S. personnel - are to be released in a sixty-day period." Warren further stating: "We expect the other side - to strictly observe this provision."

A later announcement: The White House inviting all U.S. prisoners of war - to spend a day at the White House May, Twenty-Fourth. Their wives or mothers, too. This - we are told - <sup>ad</sup> a "gesture of appreciation."

SENATE

<sup>FBI</sup>  
~~E~~ Patrick Gray was back on the stand today - before  
the Senate Judiciary Committee; attempting to win confirmation  
- for his nomination as head of the FBI; under Democratic  
questioning though - apparently succeeding only <sup>in getting in</sup> ~~in digging~~  
~~himself a deeper hole.~~

At one point, Gray all but apologizing - for refusing  
to reveal "privileged" information. "I breached the rules  
and regulations and policies of the Department of Justice  
before" - said he - "and now I have been told to adhere to  
those policies."

At another point, Senator Byrd of West Virginia, ~~was~~  
suggesting that White House aide John Dean had lied to FBI  
agents. Gray replying: "Looking back - I would have to  
conclude that your judgement is correct."

**ADD SENATE**

**And now the latest: The White House calling  
Byrd's suggestion--"reprehensible, unfortunate,  
unfair and incorrect."**

**WHITE HOUSE**

**President Nixon sent to Congress today - his first International Economic Report. In it, the President accusing Japan and Western Europe - of pursuing a self-centered "surplus syndrome." This - said he - as shown by the retention of import barriers - in spite of <sup>their own</sup> robust prosperity.**

**The President, therefore, calling for standby authority - to impose selective restrictions on U.S. imports. But stressing that these would be applied - "only in response to unfair competition - or the closing of markets abroad - or to provide time for adjustment." The President saying: "We must face up to more intense competition - rather than shrink from it."**

## STEIN FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Elsewhere on the economic front - the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers was again discussing soaring prices. Herbert Stein observing that "consumer resistance" - to high meat prices - "seems to be having an effect." Adding that, in any case, the present price surge - is merely a "temporary situation;" one that could well "be under control" - said he - "by year's end."

Stein going on to say: "If we can get through this <sup>intervening</sup> ~~intervening~~ period without setting off a big wage spiral - we are confident ~~that~~ we will come out with a lower rate of inflation rather than a higher rate."

**DETROIT FOLLOW STEIN**

*More on the same - from President Leonard*

*Woodcock of the United Auto Workers - who told a union convention today: "If Phase Three continues - we'll bargain sensibly on economic issues."*

*Woodcock warned, however, that this year's wage settlement in the auto industry - will not be dictated in Washington. "We won't be prisoners" - said he - "of any figure dreamed up in some back room."*

## **DRUGS**

***The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse***

***- presented today its second and last report; same as a year ago - urging a legalization of the use marijuana; even though the President has ~~already~~ said - he is dead set against it.***

***The Commission's second report - also urging the creation of a new super-agency to control Federal drug policy. On this - apparently hitting dead center. At any rate, the White House today announcing the consolidation of all Federal drug programs - within the Justice Department.***

HELGAFFJELL

*You all* Remember Helgaffjell, <sup>the erupting</sup> Volcano up in Iceland? <sup>As predicted</sup> ~~with~~

two months to the day since it first started erupting -

Helgaffjell ~~Volcano~~ was still going strong today. Fresh streams of lava - engulfing an additional twenty houses.

Officials now expressing doubt that Heimaey Island - on

which the volcano is located - will ever be habitable again.

## **CAPE KENNEDY**

**At Cape Kennedy - the start of a flight readiness test for the new Skylab Space Station. Astronauts Pete Conrad, Joe Kerwin and Paul Weitz / setting up shop as if they were already in space; checking out their equipment - making sure it's all in working order.**

**This one of the final steps - in the selection of a definite launch date; a date now set tentively - as May Fourteenth. In case you hadn't noticed - barely seven weeks away.**

JAKARTA

President Suharto of Indonesia - was unanimously reelected today by the Indonesian Congress. His second five-year term ~~is~~ to begin with a swearing-in ceremony tomorrow morning; <sup>This</sup> to be followed shortly - we are told - by a major Cabinet shake-up.

~~Incidentally~~ Suharto's re-election <sup>was</sup> practically foreordained. Before it was ratified though - Congressional leaders <sup>did</sup> inspecting Suharto's papers and credentials, ~~these~~ including a physicians' statement - declaring him legally sane. Also, a security document - clearing him of any involvement in an attempted Communist coup a few years ago.

Said clearance - a standard requirement for all adult Indonesians; without which they can not apply for a job - attend school - marry - move - <sup>or</sup> become President.

## COMICS

*Like old soldiers, old comic strip heroes never die - they just fade away. The latest to fade - "Terry and the Pirates;" which attracted so much attention - once one of the all-time favorites, and still popular. Others that slipped into obscurity in recent years, almost unnoticed: "Abbie & Slats" - "Buck Rogers" - "Smilin' Jack."*

*Not so for "The Katzenjammer Kids" now the world's oldest continuing comic strip; started in Eighteen-Ninety-Six - and still going strong. Next - "Popeye" - started in Nineteen-Oh-Six. Others long-time favorites including: "Mutt and Jeff" - which originated in Nineteen-oh-Seven; "Little Orphan Annie" - Nineteen-Twenty-Four; "Blondie" - Nineteen-Thirty-Three; and "Lil Abner" - Nineteen-Thirty-Four. All of which have carried American folklore and humor - right around the globe. "The comic strip" - says the National Geographic - is perhaps America's "only wholly indigenous art form."*

## GEOLOGICAL

From the U.S. Geological Survey comes ~~today~~ its first specific earthquake prediction ever. Government experts forecasting a moderate temblor - in a rural area of California about a hundred miles southeast of San Francisco. It should come - we are told - sometime "within the next several months." Dr. John Fiske adding - it'll probably measure about four-point-five on the Richter scale. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  that of the big one in Alaska,

Dr. Fisk also says, ~~however~~ "People in the area shouldn't do anything." Why not? Because <sup>- Bill</sup> "they have quakes like this all the time out there" - said he.

## WIDOW

A ninety-year-old widow from Trenton, New Jersey -  
was a welcome guest today at the White House. Mrs.  
Matilde Bedford - getting to meet her tenth President; a  
record said to be unmatched - by any living American.

Along the way - Mrs. Bedford also got to sit in the  
President's chair. The President telling her: "There - you  
are now the first lady President." ~~Mrs. Bedford later~~  
~~indicating - first and last, if it was up to her.~~

By the way, the Presidents Mrs. Bedford has met -  
including: Benjamin Harrison - William McKinley - Theodore  
Roosevelt - William Howard Taft - Woodrow Wilson -  
Warren G. Harding - Calvin Coolidge - Herbert Hoover -  
Lyndon B. Johnson - and now Richard Nixon. The latter  
admitting - that's five more than he himself has met. ~~But~~

Wonder why she missed out on <sup>FDR</sup> Eisenhower and  
Kennedy?