

Thurs. Jan. 23 - '69
Salt Lake

SENATE

For Governor Hickel of Alaska - success at last. With the Senate riding roughshod^d today - over a handful of conservation minded Democrats. Confirming the Governor Hickel appointment as Secretary of Interior by a landslide vote of seventy-three to sixteen.

Chairman Jackson of the Senate Interior Committee - the man who carried the ball for Wally Hickel. Telling his colleagues - it is the President alone who selects his principle advisors. Adding: "The Senate is neither required - nor entitled - to share this responsibility."

As for the Governor he quickly issued a statement, pledging to do his best - "to justify the Senate vote of confidence and that of President Nixon." "I approach my duties" added the rugged Alaskan - "with full confidence and enthusiasm."

WHITE HOUSE

Less than three days in his own office - Richard Nixon was still getting the "feel" of the presidency today: As witness - the signing of his first executive order.

According to usual custom the President using a number of pens - for later distribution to those attending. Between "takes" admitting some difficulty with a stop-and-go procedure. "Tjits is the first time I have ever done this" - said he. Adding: "I'm usually a scrawler."

Scrawl or no though - the executive order - once signed - fulfilling a Nixon campaign promise - creating a new urban affairs council - to wrestle with the problems of American cities. The President saying his new panel will have the same responsibilities for domestic matters - as the National Security Council now has for foreign matters.

CORONADO

Commander Lloyd Bucher, again on the stand today at Coronado, California, reliving the tortures he endured - the unspeakable horrors he was forced to witness - as a captive of the North Koreans. His voice quaking - his body trembling with emotion - the Pueblo skipper telling how he finally signed a spy confession, not to save himself - but to keep his men from being shot one by one.

At this point - the hearing was recessed temporarily -- when it became obvious - the commander was unable to continue.

HONG KONG

From Hong Kong comes a newspaper report today - that Red China's chairman Mao Tse Tung is seriously ill. The story attributed to "authoritative sources" on the mainland is quoted as saying that Mao collapsed several weeks ago during an inspection tour deep in the interior of China.

His condition has improved - we are told; but not enough - to permit his return to Peking. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Lin Piao and Premier Chou En Lai - are said to be sharing all official duties.

MOSCOW

Twenty four hours after it all happened - the Kremlin finally confirmed today that shooting yesterday in Red Square - as you may have heard by now. A lone gunman firing at a car carrying the Soviet Cosmonauts, wounding a chauffeur - also a motorcycle outrider. Now in custody - the gunman said to be "mentally deranged."

BELGRADE-VATICAN

At Belgrade, Hungary - another attempt today at self-immolation. A young locksmith - sixth Iron Curtain youth to set himself afire - in the current wave of protest against Soviet oppression.

At the same time in Rome - the Vatican radio was applauding the firebrands. Comparing them - to the early church martyrs, only to draw a speedy rebuff - from official church sources.

A Vatican spokesman saying: "These youths are not" burning themselves - "as a religious act." "They are not even anti-Communist" - said he - Only "Communists of a different faction." Adding that the Catholic Church never condones suicide - except in the case of a woman attempting to escape attack.

CANBERRA

An historic first in the making today - at Canberra. The Australian government announcing plans to use a nuclear blast - first time ever; in the carving out of a new harbor - at Cape Keraudren in Western Australia. A government spokesman saying the U S Atomic Energy Commission - will probably supply the bomb - also, set it off. Adding that there will be no fallout hazard.

By the way, Alaskans have been talking about using the same technique some day - somewhere on that long ~~Alaska~~ Alaska coastline.

SAO PAULO

According to police in Sao Paulo, Brazil - Justice for certain criminals there is not only delayed, but often non-existent. Result: A number of officers recently forming a so-called "death squad." In the last three months - the police vigilantes tracking down and executing twenty four hard core gangsters.

Now - the reverse. Police Roberto DeCarvalho forming a new "life squad" to attempt to reach those marked for death - in hopes of persuading them to surrender to the law before its too late.

And that's the way they do things in Sao Paulo, Brazil - where police really have the power of life and death.

LONDON

London - Sir Cyril Burt ponders the will to live. At eighty-five - the famed British psychologist coming to the conclusion that it's possible if not to cheat death - certainly to take evasive action against it.

Sir Cyril advises the concerned individual - to make a study of his ancestors: keeping a special lookout for recurring causes of death - such as thrombosis, cancer and so on. If such a pattern exists - said he - "you should - when the age of incidence draws near - undertake appropriate preventive measures."

Sir Cyril concluding: ^{this way} ~~In this way~~, you may well postpone the impending doom - or even ~~may~~ escape it all together." At least - said he "at least, until death comes once more in a different guise."

HAZELHURST

The known death toll in that Mississippi tornado is now set at about thirty. As rescue workers continue to comb the debris created by the storms, searching ~~kk~~ for those still missing.

Among the hardest hit communities - the city of Hazelhurst, Mississippi - where the storm ripped apart one home - picked up a dozen sleeping residents and tossed them into a nearby lake. Amazingly all but four were rescued.

How would you like to wake up in the middle of a lake, Warren?

NEW YORK

A new book just out - written for pet lovers - but they won't like it. It's called - "Petishism".

Author Kathline Szasz blasting the "pet cultists" of America - who place their precious animals on a par with humans. Indeed Miss Szasz asserts that the "cultists" are really trying to escape from their own troubles: replacing human relationships they can't control - with animal relationships they can control.

Before his death - the late Robert Kennedy often addressing himself to this same subject, noted that Americans spend more on their cats and dogs every year - than the cost of the entire U.S. Space effort.