

ATLANTA

Mon. Dec. 16 - 68.

The Hong Kong Flu - if you haven't had it yet - count yourself lucky - but keep your fingers crossed. According to the National Communicable Disease Center at Atlanta - the virus is ~~is~~ striking ~~now~~ "almost simultaneously" all over the nation. Closing schools and colleges - crippling businesses - threatening police and fire departments. Altogether, the worst flu epidemic since that double wave of Asian flu a decade ago.

At the same time - the weather ^{May has} ~~adding to~~ ^{piled} ~~up~~ up to three feet of snow in New England, ^{with} record cold as far south as Miami; ^{also} ~~and~~ more snow and cold from Montana to California; ^{with} ~~and, the start of~~ ^{officially} winter, still five days away.

PARIS

~~Progress at~~ ^{From} Paris ~~at least~~ ^a progress report,
- maybe, of sorts, ~~with~~ The Viet Cong's full negotiating team -
arriving ~~tonight~~ in the French capital, ^{to a} ~~Receiving a~~
rousing welcome - from Viet Cong sympathizers.

Guerrilla spokesman Tran Buu Kiem - ~~promptly~~ promptly
demanding) ~~an~~ an immediate start to expanded peace talks.

~~Unfortunately~~ ^{But,} the enemy delegation ~~arriving~~ ^{ed}
~~in the midst of~~ ^{as} a new rift, ^{develops} between Washington and

Saigon. ~~The~~ South Vietnamese Vice President Ky taking
umbrage ~~today~~ at a weekend charge from U.S.

Defense Secretary Clark Clifford; ~~a charge~~ that ~~the~~
Saigon ^{has been} ~~government~~ ~~was~~ quibbling ^f at Paris over unimportant
matters. Said Ky: "He" - meaning Clifford - "seems
to have a gift for saying the wrong thing - at the wrong
time."

VIET NAM FOLLOW PARIS

~~On the other side of the globe in Vietnam~~

~~itself there is little if any "peace on earth" as yet.~~

In Vietnam there at least was
~~nevertheless~~, an attempt ~~today~~ at Christmas good will.

The ~~Human~~ U S repatriating seven North Vietnamese

merchant seamen - captured more than a year ago in

international ^{Perhaps a} waters. A gesture aimed ~~hope~~ hopefully

at obtaining the holiday ~~and announcement~~ release of some

of the three hundred or so American pilots - still

in Communist/ hands.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the count-down continues tonight - toward Saturday's scheduled launch of the Apollo Eight. ~~With The Bird, at last report - as perfect as perfect can be. Also, the men who will~~
~~fly it.~~ ^{with} Astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders - completing their last major physicals. Space Doctor Charles Berry later ~~is~~ saying: "Everything's fine - we don't see anything to cause us any concern." As you know, the Apollo Eight mission ^{to be} ~~America's~~ ^{our} first try at a manned ring-around-the-moon.

WASHINGTON

At least two key figures in the present
Johnson administration - also to serve in the next
Nixon administration.. The President-elect's ^{office} ~~secretary~~
~~secretary~~ announcing today that J Edgar Hoover
and Richard Helms - have both been asked to remain
~~at~~ their posts; and both - are said to have agreed.
J. Edgar of course - Director of the F B I; Richard
Helms - Director of the C I A.

Meanwhile, Richard Nixon was again visiting
Washington - where he plans to take up residence soon.
The President Elect conferring today - with Republican
congressional leaders ^{and} later ^{spending some time} ~~meeting~~ with former
President Eisenhower at Walter Reed ~~Army~~ Hospital.

SUPREME COURT

Washington again - ~~another big~~ ^{a major} decision
~~day today~~ ^{by} at the Supreme Court, including ~~an~~
endorsement of the government's rights to call up
~~reservists~~ reservists for active duty; even in the case of
an "undeclared war" such as Vietnam.

The High Court also ruled that a draft
registrant must submit to induction - before he can
challenge said induction in a civilian court, unless
he has a specific legal exemption - as, for example,
that of a divinity student.

PRAGUE

Shakeup in Prague. ~~Czech sources reporting~~

Report of
~~today~~ ↘

a drastic realignment of Czech Communist

Party leadership, Raising from four to nine - the

number of top party secretaries. Czech Reform Leader

Alexander Dubcek - still at the helm. However, the

new secretary ^{is} said to include a number of wellknown

middle of the roaders - also, Lubomir Strougal - a

previous party ~~was~~ secretary under Stalinist Antonin

Novotny.

ADELAIDE

~~Daredevil~~ Max Conrad - airborne once more;
~~today in the flight of his life.~~ Taking off from
~~around~~ Punta Arenas, Chile, at the southern most tip
of South America; headed ^{ing} for Britain's Palmer station
at Adelaide Island in the Antarctic. The weather -
good; winds - favorable. Expected flight ~~was~~ time about
eight hours. And though ~~we~~ haven't heard ^{but} ~~as yet~~ -
he's ~~now~~ probably there by ~~again~~ now.

At Adelaide, ^{Island the} ~~the famed~~ "flying grandfather"
^{is} ~~planning~~ to equip his plane with plastic skis for the
next leg, ^{- a big one, to The South Pole in his} ~~of his flight. Heading into the home stretch~~
~~small plane.~~
~~of his daring attempt to fly solo around the world -~~
~~by way of both Poles.~~

MUNICH

Boeing and Messerschmitt -- two of the
greatest names in aviation on opposing ~~sides~~ sides in
World War Two; now - the same side. The Vertol
Division of ~~Boeing~~ Boeing - signing an agreement today
in Munich; an agreement to produce high performance
12 helicopters - designed by ^(the) Messerschmitt-Boelkow
firm of West Germany.

Boeing and Messerschmitt - what a team.

What with campus riots ^{getting} ~~gathering~~ headlines

~~clear~~ across the country - this next is perhaps of special) ~~special~~ note. The bankrupt Silvermine College of Art - New Canaan, Connecticut reopening its doors today.

Resuming classes - on the strength of a sixty thousand dollar donation. The money raised by Silvermine students themselves - in a weekend canvass of Connecticut's well-to-do Fairfield County. By the way - the students will also give up their Christmas holiday ^{to} ~~concentrating~~ on a series of fund-raising endeavors ^{hoping they'll keep} ~~to insure that~~ the ^{of} college ~~will remain~~ open.

In the black cloud of student unrest - Warren a silver lining at Silvermine College.

LONDON

London - Britain's Labor Government

scores again. Winning grudging approval - for another year of its present austerity program. This by a weekend vote - of Britain's National Economic development council; a semi-official body including top industrialists - also, leaders of the British Trades Congress. To be sure the vote was far from unanimous. Indeed, one of the labor chiefs present - calling Prime Minister Harold Wilson ~~nothing but~~ a "scrooge."

As far as is known though - nobody called him a

- Dickens type Tiny Tim we mean,
"Tiny Tim" ~~(FYI Tiny Tim is a "put-on" of questionable~~

~~sex popularized by Rowan and Martin)~~