

PRESIDENT

Tues, Feb. 5-74.

From President Nixon - a call today for a comprehensive national health insurance program; one that "would finance virtually all of the health protection - that people need." This in a speech -to the annual meeting of the American Hospital Association.

The President claiming that such a program could be financed through three methods, ~~and~~ without a tax increase. Adding, however, that coverage in each ~~and~~ - would be the same; ^{to} including payment for "hospital and physician's care - drugs - laboratory tests - X-rays" and so on; even in cases of mental illness - alcoholism - and drug abuse.

Ultimate goal - said the President - to guarantee that "no American is denied high quality health care ~~and~~ because he can't afford it." The President adding: "It is health - which is real wealth."

WHITE HOUSE

we learn that Sec of State
From The White House ~~an announcement today that Henry~~

**Kissinger will return to Moscow - in late March. This -
we are told - in order to assist "with preparations" - for a
Presidential visit later on.**

ENERGY

On the energy front - an attempt today to dispel any semblance of a credibility gap. Energy czar William Simon saying: "If people don't believe us when we tell them there is an energy crisis - if they think we are acting in cahoots with the major oil companies to boost profits - they will not cooperate - they will not conserve." "And if that happened" - said he - "the current crisis would become a catastrophe."

FREEZE FOLLOW ENERGY

And now the latest: President Nixon ordering an immediate freeze - on the retail price of diesel fuel. This in response to a nationwide strike - of independent truckers.

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The freeze to remain in effect - we are told - 'till the passage of legislation - permitting the truckers to pass on ^{extra} their costs.

SENATE

The Senate Armed Services Committee began hearings today - on the President's budget request for Eighty-Five Billion in military spending. Lead-off witness: Defense Secretary ~~James~~ Schlesinger - admitting the cost is high. But one of the reasons - said he - the fact that "we have already overshot the mark in previous reductions;" while "the military capabilities of those nations in a position to threaten our interest - have not declined, they have increased."

VENUS

America's Mariner-Ten spacecraft - swung within
thirty-six hundred miles of the planet Venus today; along the
way, taking a series of photographs - of Venus's dark side.
The images later relayed to earth - showing first a ~~scimitar-shaped~~
~~scimitar-shaped~~ shadow - then "a blob of white" - and finally a
grey-black surface.

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul today dismissed exiled Cardinal Mindszenty - as the Primate of Hungary.

The Pope's action - said to have followed extreme pressure from the Communist Hungarian government; an attempt to clear the way - for a resumption of normal "pastoral interests in Hungary."

At the same time, ^{the Pope sent} a personal letter to the eighty-one-year-old Cardinal - highly praising his past service ~~and~~ ^{and} comparing his ordeal of the past twenty-five years ~~to~~ - to the crown of thorns worn by Jesus.

LONDON

Two men who normally shun publicity - were sharing a common spotlight today in London. Oil billionaire J. Paul Getty and famed airman Charles Lindbergh - launching "a sort of Nobel Prize for conservation." The winner to receive Fifty Thousand Bucks - for "outstanding service for the benefit of mankind in the conservation of wildlife."

BETHEL

SENATE
Waiting in line for gas - can sometimes be
downright dangerous. Case in point - this next from Bethel,
Connecticut; where a motorist was moving up in line - finding
himself in the middle of a railroad crossing; when suddenly
there was the old
~~the~~ "Six-Fifty-Five" out of Danbury - bearing down on him.

Unable to move his car in time - the motorist
leaping out. Watching helplessly - as the vehicle was
totally demolished. Worse yet, the driver later receiving
— Bill —
a summons - for failure to stop at a railroad crossing.

SENATE

From Senator Goldwater of Arizona - a recent comment that Texans "don't know chili from leavings in a corral." - and challenging his colleague - to a chili cook-out. Which today brought from Senator Tower of Texas - a stinging rebuke. In a Senate speech Senator Tower compared Arizona chili with Texas chili saying it's like "comparing Phyllis Diller with Sophia Loren."