

Wednesday, May 16, 1973

HOUSTON

The latest news from America's two-and-a-half billion dollar crippled Skylab space station venture - is virtually the same as yesterday, only more so. The stricken ship - continuing to overheat; to the point where some of its parts are now registering - anywhere from a hundred-and-seventy to a hundred-and-ninety degrees Fahrenheit.

While here below - at Houston - there is a continuing effort to come up with some way to correct the situation.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon presents his views on campaign reforms; first, in a two-page message to Congress - and then in a nationwide radio broadcast.

The President urging creation of a seventeen-member, bipartisan commission - to recommend sweeping changes in the nation's election laws. These ~~should~~^{to} deal especially - said he - with the "length of terms of members of the House, of the Senate, and of the President." ~~The~~ President Nixon also calls ~~also calling~~ for reforms - in campaign financing and "the whole range of improper campaign practices."

"There will be a temptation" - he continued - "to attempt reforms piecemeal; but this, I believe - would be a mistake" - said he. Adding: "The reforms needed are sweeping - rather than scattered; and each should be considered - in relation to the others."

TAPS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

On another front - the White House today confirmed another story - growing out of the Watergate affair; admitting that four years ago President Nixon personally ordered wiretaps - on the telephones of more than a dozen members of the National Security Council.

A White House spokesman stressed, however - that this was an attempt to discover the source of repeated news leaks; and therefore, "a national security matter" - perfectly legal. It also resulted - we hear - in the dismissal of at least three top officials - as so-called "blabbermouths."

COOK

While all this was going on - alleged corruption in government was claiming still another victim. G. Bradford Cook resigning today - as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, over the case - involving financier Robert Vesco. A grand jury charging last week that Cook had allowed himself to be influenced - by Republican fundraiser Maurice Stans.

The thirty-six-year-old Cook - youngest ever to head the SEC - refusing to admit any wrongdoing said "I have reached this most difficult decision because of my complete respect for the SEC and its dedicated staff." And he added: "I retain my complete confidence - in my country, its institutions and myself."

WATERGATE

Starting tomorrow - on TV - the Senate's Watergate inquiry. The schedule calling for testimony first - from two former officials of the Committee to Re-elect the President; to be followed by the police sergeant - who led the raiding party that captured five of the Watergate defendants. And then - the man who blew the lid off - convicted Watergate conspirator James McCord; whose revelations of the past few weeks - have led to mass resignations within the Administration.

Senator Goldwater of Arizona said today that he and "all Americans want this cleared up - until no doubt remains as to what happened, why it happened and who caused it to happen." (But urging the President, come what may - "to start making moves in the direction of leadership." "We are witnessing" - said Goldwater - "the loss of confidence on America's ability to govern."

KISSINGER

Henry Kissinger was off again today - heading for Paris; where he plans to meet tomorrow - with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. Hoping to shore up - the present shakey cease-fire in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Senate Republican leaders, invoking a parliamentary maneuver; today delayed temporarily a vote on a measure aimed at cutting off the bombing in Cambodia. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott saying: "It is felt that an opportunity should be given - for the Le Duc Tho-Kissinger talks to proceed." Senator Scott adding that he was determined "that Senate action - would not endanger those negotiations."

VICTORIA FALLS

*One of the world's greatest natural wonders -
Victoria Falls - on the border between Zambia and
Rhodesia - the scene of a seemingly senseless shooting
today. A group of men said to be Zambian troops - firing
across Victoria Falls Gorge; hitting three tourists - who
were standing on the other side.*

*Christine Sinclair - age twenty - of Guelph, Ontario
in Canada - killed instantly. Iduma Døtjber - age
nineteen - of Rockwood, Ontario - tumbling into the water
and ~~she~~ was swept away. The third victim - John Crothers
- age thirty-one - of Troy, Ohio; said to have suffered -
~~severe~~ stomach wounds.*

LONDON

The latest case of "gold fever" in Western Europe - was easing a bit today. The closing price on the big London bullion market - showing a drop of ~~Five~~^{Five} - Fifty-an-ounce. The U.S. dollar also staging a rally - in London, Paris, Zurich, Frankfurt and other European trading centers.

PARIS

Paris again - the second day of a conference attended by top bankers and business men - from all over the globe. The main speaker today - Chairman David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan Bank; calling the sharp climb in gold prices - "a thermometer of political concern more than a thermometer for the validity of a particular currency."

David Rockefeller going on to say: "The present price level of the dollar - is right; we are beginning to export more - and cut down on imports. The balance of trade and the balance of payments - are improving, " said he - adding in short: "The U.S. economy - is extremely strong."

CHICAGO

Here at home - Vice President ~~Spive~~ Agnew was also discussing the U.S. economy. In a speech ~~today~~ at Chicago - saying: "At the moment - inflation is with us; and there is no simple, instantaneous solution - for it." "However, if we are willing to persist in the restraint of Federal spending" - said he - "we can attain a fully employed economy without war and without inflation."

DHAULAGIRI

On the slopes of majestic Dhaulagiri high in the Himalayas - success at last. A sixteen-man American expedition - finally succeeding in conquering the twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-five-foot peak. The trio who actually made it to the top - including: Louis Reichardt of Palo Alto, California, - John Roskelly of Spokane, Washington, - ^{and the inevitable} ~~and their~~ ^{his name} ~~guide~~ Sherpa. ~~guide~~ Sirdar Nawa Samden.

FORT KNOX

At Fort Knox, Kentucky - a night helicopter flight; for the purpose of testing a newly-developed - night vision device; which may - or may not have worked. In any event, the helicopter crashing in a nearby hilly area - in the midst of a clump of tall cedar trees. Of the seven men aboard - all dead.

PATNA

*From the city of Patna in India's Bihar State -
a report today telling of the mass lynching of eight persons.
This raising to sixteen - the total number of lynchings at
Patna over the past week.*

*The "why" of it all - explained by a police spokesman;
who said that the lynching victims - were alleged members
of a kidnap ring, specializing in abducting small children
and then forcing them to work as beggars. Even worse -
we are told - they also maimed some of the children; making
them more pathetic - in order to increase their "take."*

*So, the people of Patna demanded and got "instant
justice."*

PORTO ALEGRE

Down at Porto Alegre in Brazil - it's already late fall; and soon - it'll be winter. ^{For} ~~is~~ the Brazilian ice cream business - the slow season, even as here.

Ah, but now an attempt - at reverse psychology. The proprietor of a local ice cream parlor - mixing up all the ingredients he normally uses to make ice cream. Then instead of freezing it - simmering it slowly until it thickens. ^{Bill} And presto! - a special winter treat they're now calling "hot ice cream"

HEMANS

This next - from Hemans, Michigan. The screeching of breaks - signaling the start of a highway accident; with a heavily-laden truck - flipping over on Route Thirty-Five.

Luckily - no one hurt. But the truck's contents did spill across the roadway. Nearly a hundred thousand eggs - splattering all over the place. As a state police officer put it: And you would expect him to say: "The biggest omelet in the World."