

Wednesday, April 18, 1973
Substitute: Reid Collins

WHITE HOUSE

In another of his special messages to Congress - President Nixon was all steamed up today over the energy situation. "Our energy needs have grown so rapidly" - said he - "they now outstrip our available supplies." "And a dozen years from now" - he continued - "at our present rate of growth - our energy needs will be nearly double what they were in Nineteen-Seventy." "Clearly" - said he - "we are facing a vitally important energy challenge" - which, if it "continues unchecked," could lead to a "genuine energy crisis."

The President going on to say - he is, therefore, suspending all existing tariffs on imported crude oil and related by-products; also, suspending all oil import quotas - in favor of a new "license-fee quota."

The President stressed, however: "There should be

need for a nation which has always been rich in energy - to have to turn to energy rationing." And he added: "This is a part of the energy challenge - which every American can help to meet; by continually saving energy - in day-to-day activities; by turning out lights - tuning up automobiles - reducing the use of air conditioning and heating - and purchasing products which use energy efficiently."

The President concluding: "In the final analysis, the ultimate responsibility does not rest merely with the Congress or with this Administration - it rests with all of us."

SCOTT

The White House again - President Nixon conferred today with a delegation of Republican and Democratic Senators; discussing the fate of a pending bill - aimed at granting the Soviet Union "most favored nation" trade status.

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott - later serving as spokesman for his colleagues; quoting the President as saying the Russians have now removed one of the major stumbling blocks - to passage of the bill in question. The Soviet Union suspending its exit visa tax - on Jews and others seeking to emigrate to foreign lands - said Scott. Adding that this will apply in all cases - "except in limited areas where state security is involved."

CHAIRMEN

Elsewhere in Washington - the Democratic and Republican National Chairmen - were making a joint appearance before the National Press Club.

Democrat Robert Strauss - concentrating his fire on the Watergate affair, as might be expected. Strauss accusing the President - of engaging in ten months of "judicial charades." Adding that the President's "executive arrogance" - clearly endangers "the credibility of the office of the Presidency;" and could endanger - said he - even "the system itself."

Republican George Bush - agreeing, at least in part. There can be no question - said he - but that "grubby incidents" such as Watergate "downgrade the political process." But ~~he~~ ^{Bush} insisted that even a Watergate - cannot obscure "the positive record of this Administration."

MORGAN CITY

Governor Edwards of Louisiana - flew today to the coastal regions of his home state; there inspecting an area - including Morgan City, Jena, Marksville, Jonesville and Opelousas; all of which are threatened by high tides - heavy rains - also, the raging Atchafalaya River.

The Governor later saying there is as yet - no reason for "panic or alarm;" but warning residents to be ready to leave - if the waters continue to rise ~~any more~~.

RAWALPINDI

At Rawalpindi - Pakistan welcomed today that offer from Indian and Bangladesh - to repatriate an estimated ninety thousand Pakistani prisoners of war. The Pakistanis expressed "grave concern," however - over plans by Bangladesh to try nearly two hundred additional prisoners as war criminals. "Such a step" - said Rawalpindi - "would otherwise result from a return of the prisoners."

PARIS

Leading officials of Australia's new Labor government - are currently fanning out across the globe; attempting to mold a new public image - for the land "Down Under."

One exception though - Justice Minister Lionel Murphy; who was sent to Paris - for the expressed purpose of attempting to halt French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Murphy presenting his case today - in an interview taped for state-run French television. At one point, asserting that "every man, woman and child in Australia have in their bodies - radioactive material from the French tests," material - said he - that "could be deleterious - could cause cancer - could cause serious genetic damage." Murphy adding: "We should not have that happen against our will."

As it turned out though - this his most telling argument was never heard by French viewers. State censors - simply cutting it out.

MADRID

Crime wave in Spain. A number of recent bank holdups - netting bandits more than a Million Dollars. And now the Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Industry - demanding action. In a letter to the Spanish Justice Ministry - urging a return to law and order; as exemplified by more police - and harsher penalties for convicted offenders.

The Madrid note further citing an "invasion of foreign tourists - not always of adequate social standard." Observing that such persons - have, "without doubt, contributed to the appearance of new forms of crime." The Madrider adding: "If not rapidly and drastically checked, this could lead into a situation of internal violence - similar to the one that presently exists in the United States."

NORMAN

On the sports front - the nation's second-ranked college football team of last fall - was declared way off-side today. The Sooners of Oklahoma - ordered to forfeit eight of eleven victories; for recruiting violations - said to have involved two freshman players; both of whom have also been suspended from varsity competition - for the coming year. A school spokesman adding that Assistant Coach Bill Michaels - the man held ^{Chiefly} responsible - has since resigned.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ALOFT-CHAMPS"

As you may have guessed by now - Lowell Thomas is off again on another jaunt. He's heading into the Arizona desert - which is said to be bursting into bloom for the first time in years, thanks to uncommon spring rains. And he'll tell us all about it, no doubt - as soon as he gets back.

In the meantime - a special report he left us.

Lowell...

I ALOFT - Champs

L.T. Page insert

While flying back and forth across the country ^{and up and down} ~~the~~

^{In recent} ~~past couple of~~ weeks - ~~I happened to~~ ^I ran across an

intriguing article in National Airlines' Aloft magazine.

It's called "Meet the Champs" - by Frank L. Remington;

and it tells of the off-beat accomplishments of so-called

"World champions" - that most of us have never even heard

of.

For example, Georges Grognet of Belgium - who

holds the world's record for eating hard-boiled eggs;

forty-four - in half-an-hour. Also, Bozo Miller of ^{Calif.} Oakland

- who devoured an astounding three hundred and twenty-four

ravioli. Also, Vernon Craig of Wooster, Ohio - who lay

on a bed of nails for twenty-five hours and twenty-minutes;

^{and they said} ~~whereupon he announced~~ - "I'm a little raw."

Perhaps the most revealing record though - that of

Frank Pulmary of Lexington, Kentucky; who caught an egg

dropped from a height of two hundred and seventeen feet,

seven inches - and then was so elated he cracked it over his

ALOFT - 2 *Champs* - 2

partner's head.

*Proving what? Proving you have to be a little
cracked, I guess - to be an off-beat champ.*

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ALOFT-CHAMPS"

Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.

NASHVILLE

Nearly fifty years ago - at Dayton, Tennessee - the famed Scopes "Monkey Trial." Six years ago - at Nashville - the repeal of Tennessee's "Monkey Law." Today - at Nashville - another step in the evolution of a sovereign state.

The Tennessee Senate approving overwhelmingly - a bill dealing with Charles Darwin's theory of evolution; a bill permitting the teaching of Darwin's theory as just that - a theory, but not fact. The Senate's action was taken, what's more - without debate. Senator Milton Hamilton - the bill's chief sponsor - later explaining why. "The reason there wasn't any debate" - said he - "is that national TV came down here - with the idea they would make us look like a bunch of barefoot Tennesseans."

Hamilton also predicts that his proposed legislation will soon pass the Tennessee House. You don't ever expect opposition" - said he - "when you have a good bill."