

Monday, April 2, 1974

WHITE HOUSE

President Nixon today signed the bill raising the Federal minimum wage to Two-Thirty-an-hour in three steps. The measure almost identical to the bill vetoed last year. Says the President: "On the whole - it contains more good than bad". And "its basic purpose" - said he - "to increase the minimum wage for working men and women" - is one that "deserves the support of all Americans."

NEWPORT BEACH

Over the weekend - as you may have heard - a charge from Senator Weicker of Connecticut - that certain "White House friends" had recieved special tax breaks.

One of those he named - film hero John Wayne; who has now responded by telegram - saying:

"Senator Weicker - for your information I have never asked for nor have I received IRS favors - nor have I needed them." John Wayne further telling the Senator:

"What I need - is protection from cheap politicians like you!

~~*And a lot more.*~~

PARIS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

In France - the President's weekend visit to Paris was being hailed today - as a personal triumph. French newspapers and commentators - noting how the President was sought out by Soviet President Podgorny, West Germany's Willy Brandt, Japan's Premier Tanaka and other world leaders.

The newspaper Le Monde, for one, calling it ~~off~~ - "the Nixon festival." Adding that "whether one likes it or not - whether one bows to it or not - U.S. supremacy" makes the President "at home everywhere."

BONN

— in Germany —
Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - a visitor in

Bonn; ~~where he~~ said today that President Nixon - should not be forced to resign. "The best way to proceed" - is just the way we're proceeding now - said he. Adding that the American political system continues to work well - in spite of criticism both at home and abroad.

SENATE FOLLOW BONN

In Washington
~~Here at home~~ *in*, the Senate ~~an~~ *today* attempt ~~today~~ *ed*

to quell gratuitous comment about the possibility of

impeachment. *That is* Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield ~~was~~

saying - there has been entirely too much speculation. Also

~~saying~~ "If and when the issue comes to the Senate - there

will be as little partisanship as possible - there will be no

circus - there will be no hamming by any part of this body."

Mansfield adding that in such an event - indeed, "the

Senate itself" would be on trial."

GOLAN HEIGHTS

In the Middle East - Israeli jets were ~~sent into~~
action today over the Golan Heights. An Israeli two-seater
- later crashing in flames; ^{they say} the first Israeli jet lost on the
Northern Front - since the end of the October War.

Damascus ~~quickly~~ claiming "it was shot down by
Syrian forces. Israel insisting, ~~however~~ the crash was
~~merely~~ the result of a "technical mishap."

NEW DELHI

*At New Delhi - a fourth straight day of meetings -
between the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan and
Bangladesh; an attempt to secure a lasting peace -
throughout that vast subcontinent.*

*Observers noting that the talks have apparently
made little progress.*

GRAIN

At the same time, a report today from the U.S.

Agriculture Department - noting that Indian wheat production is again way down; the result of a lack of rain - fertilizer shortages - crop disease - and insufficient fuel for irrigation pumps, with India hoping to buy wheat from Canada or Russia.

KATMANDU

From Katmandu ^{comes} a report ~~today~~ that Nepal is attempting to rebuild its once-flourishing trade ↙ with nearby Tibet. A five-man Nepalese trade delegation ^{is} now at Lhasa; ~~with~~ ^{and} a trade mission from Tibet ^{is} due in Katmandu later this month. The exchange of goods between these two countries ^{has been} ~~is~~ virtually nil since the Red Chinese takeover of Tibet in Nineteen-Fifty.

ZURICH

*From exiled Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn -
an open letter to the West in general and his new neighbors
in Zurich in particular. Solzhenitsyn saying he has been
"surrounded by so much friendly warmth" - it makes him
feel he is not in "a foreign country." "What I want now" -
he continued - "is to thank my innumerable friends - with
new literary works."*

HICKORY CORNERS

From Hickory Corners, Michigan - a report today
telling of a chicken - that lays rare double eggs; one inside
the other - shell and all.

The owner of this remarkable bird, A Mrs. Donald
Shoup, ~~who~~ says it's one of a flock - of thirty-nine hens;
which one - she hopes to find out soon and ^{maybe find a} ~~set her straight.~~
way to keep the hen from ^{ing} ~~Mrs. Shoup explaining~~ "She might strain herself."

Bill, maybe you've heard of the bird in
the So. Seas that lays square eggs and says "ouch!"

ST. PETERSBURG

Florida -- ~~St. Petersburg, Florida~~ --
In the *St. Petersburg Times* ~~an~~ editorial today

aimed at discouraging visitors from taking up permanent

residence. ~~The Times noting that~~ *Says the paper!* tourists are fine -

~~saying, in fact,~~ "we make our living serving them." Adding,

however, the ^{in St. Pete} city is already too crowded - "so we can't

in good conscience press you to come down to stay ⊙"

~~From St. Petersburg~~ The message, in short: *OW*

St. Pete -

"It's a nice place to visit - but, ^{*it's a-l-u-t-w.*} ~~you wouldn't want to live~~

~~there."~~