

Wed. Feb. 19, 1969

Denver?

WHITE HOUSE

The plight of America's poor - topic A today at the White House. With President Nixon pledging priority attention - to "the blight on poverty" - as he put it. The job to include a complete overhaul of the so-called "war on poverty" as it has existed up to now. First step in the President's new battle plan - as relayed to Congress - a request for continuation of the Experimental Office of Economic Opportunity - the government's chief anti-poverty agency - for at least another year: but with four of its main programs - including Head Start and the Job Corps - transferred to regular ~~government~~ government agencies. The President further promising "a comprehensive proposal" by July first - covering the future of the entire poverty program. With special emphasis - on righting poverty programs that seem to have gone sour. Poverty "cannot and will not be treated lightly" by this Administration - said the President. Adding:

"The public generally and the poor especially - have the right to demand ~~of~~ effective and efficient management" in this area - "and I intend to provide it."

CAPITAL HILL FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Underscoring the President's remarks -

Congressional testimony today by one of the nation's

leading nutritionists. Dr. James Carter of Vanderbilt

University - asserting that hunger is widespread -

"particularly among children" in many parts of South

Carolina. Indeed, so prevalent is the problem - said

he - that these areas - if located overseas - ~~could~~ could

easily qualify for U.S. Foreign Aid.

KENNEDY FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

You have heard about the threat of spiraling inflation - Treasury Secretary David Kennedy today was telling a joint Senate-House economic committee - there is little hope for an early end to the present ten percent income tax surcharge. Nor is there much hope for an early end to record high interest rates - said he.

Adding: "The economy must be placed under firm restraint - until there are unmistakable signs that we are headed back on a non-inflationary path."

PARIS

On the peace front Paris - the end of the line today for U S Deputy Peace Negotiator, Cyrus Vance: who returns home to rejoin his law firm - after playing a most important role in bringing about the expanded talks.

Vance's last official act - a "farewell call" on the North Vietnamese delegation: after which he predicted that "eventually - a settlement will come out of the Paris meetings.

VIETNAM FOLLOW PARIS

Meanwhile - in Vietnam the war goes on.

Ground action today - including a fierce battle for control of the vital A Chau Valley. With allied troops coming out on top - pushing the enemy back across the Laotian border.

As they fled the scene - the Communists leaving behind nearly two hundred bodies. A later check of the battlefield - also uncovered a mass grave for about a hundred and eighty more - killed earlier.

JERUSALEM

Overseas - the Middle East is still the focus of world attention tonight. With Arabs, Israelis, U N observers and neutrals alike - in effect "waiting for the other shoe to drop." Waiting for a possible Israeli reprisal raid - considered almost certain to come - in the wake of that Arab attack yesterday - on an El Al Airliner at Zurich.

When last we heard - nothing, as yet. However, Jerusalem warning today - it will ~~not~~ not tolerate Arab guerrilla attacks on civilian jets. With rumors later suggesting ~~to~~ Syria's Damascus airport - as number one on Israel's most wanted list.

NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans - another surprising turn of events today - in the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial. With the District Attorney Jim Garrison - cancelling scheduled testimony by former Texas Governor John Connelly. He had expected Governor Connelly to bolster his conspiracy theory - Garrison saying he now considers the former Governor "a hostile witness."

BERLIN

What's in a name? Often - a lot. As witness a number of items - making news today.

For example - a report from troubled West Berlin; noting that the people of that city call the infamous Berlin Wall - der schandmauer. In English - "the wall of shame."

Another item from Texas; telling of a population explosion - among the armadillo, causing extensive damage to crops, poultry farms, and wildlife, too. With the burgeoning armadillo practically impervious to his enemies - as his name would indicate. Dating back to the Spanish conquistadores - they called him - quote - "the little fella in armor."

Next - a story from Australia; reporting the widespread slaughter of kangaroos - threatening the species with extinction. Why they permit - it I'll never know. Which is just about what the aborigine

said - when Captain Cook first asked him the name of that strange looking animal. "Kangaroo"! said the aborigine. Which means - literally - "I don't know."

What do you know, Warren? Kangaroo,

I mean.

MOSCOW

From Moscow comes news - of a long awaited Soviet film first. The premier performance - of Russia's classic "Andrei Rublev" drawing crowds so large - police were finally called to control those who couldn't get in.

The reason, in part, because "Andrei Rublev" - is the Soviet Union's first frankly religious film.

Telling the life story of a fourteenth century monk - who became the country's greatest painter of religious ikons - an inspiration to millions. Another reason - the fact that it's the first Soviet film - to depict the cruelty, violence and wide-spread debauchery of feudal Russia; including scenes that portray the crucifixion of peasants - as well as mass orgies - by naked revelers. So real - we are told - that the film was held up two years by Kremlin censors.

"Andrei Rublev" proving, in short - a combination of early Cecil B. DeMille - and modern Greenwich Village. As such - a box office smash.