

Wed. January 27, 1971

## PENTAGON

*From the Pentagon comes what may be a harbinger of a break at last in the nuclear arms race. A Defense Department spokesman saying the U.S. is now considering - a possible showdown in safeguard anti-ballistic missile construction. This - said he - to serve, hopefully, as a spur to U.S. and Soviet strategic arms limitation talks; a move prompted, at least in part, by a recent Soviet decision - to slow down the deployment of Russia's own S.S.-Nine missiles. And so a tentative first step - it would appear - toward a long sought goal.*

## CAPE KENNEDY

*On the space front - at Cape Kennedy - an attempt today at anticipating the unanticipated. Astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell - returning to their space draft trainers; there running through a series of techniques - aimed at coping with almost any space emergency*

*At the same time - local authorities were reopening a huge influx of visitors; with the total figure - expected to reach half a million or so by lift-off Sunday. The flight of Apollo 14 - said to be drawing the greatest national interest ever. A space official observing; "the delay between flights - probably has something to do with it;" but more than that - he added - "we are getting down to the end of the line." The space schedule, at present - calling for only three more moonshots.*

## **WHOLESALE**

*The U. S. wholesale price index - up sharply last month; jumping six-tenths of a percent - according to a labor department estimate announced today. This the biggest increase in wholesale prices - since January of last year; with a rapid rise in wholesale food prices - said to be mainly responsible. Government experts saying this could point the way - to higher retail prices just ahead; and then again - maybe not.*

*In any event, the U. S. Commerce Department also announcing today - its own composite ~~index~~ index of leading business indicators. These showing an increase of 1.4% during the month of December; a climb that is said to suggest strongly that the economy will continue to expand in the months ahead."*

## SAKHON NAKHON

At Sakhon Nakhon in neighboring Thailand - a formal dedication today. Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn - officially opening the last link in a nationwide chain of strategic highways. These - built largely with American aid; a fact - that Kittikachorn duly noted. The new system will not only bring together the Thais - said he - but will also serve as "a bond of friendship between the Thai and American people; a living and useful monument," - he continued - "to the enduring cooperation and mutual understanding between Thailand and the United States."



## CAPITOL HILL

Here on our own shores = Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~  
Laird returned ~~in~~ again today to Capitol Hill; testifying  
before the Senate Armed Services Committee - where he  
repeated his assurances that American Ground Forces  
definitely "will not be introduced" in Cambodia. And he  
stressed <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ the Cambodians understand this.

Lest there be any doubt though - Melvin Laird ~~then~~ then  
went on to say - "the U.S." - in his own words - "is not  
going to retreat from the responsibilities of leadership in  
the world." And he added that Southeast Asia "is an  
indispensable building block - in President Nixon's  
strategy for peace."

MOSCOW

Moscow - another official U.S. protest - was filed today with the Kremlin. This following by a few hours - a strongarm attack on a U.S. newsman; second such incident - just this week. Same as before, breaking up an attempt to make contact - with a Russian news source. U.S. officials adding it would thus appear the Soviets have launched a new drive - aimed at stopping fraternization with ~~U.S.~~ U.S. newsmen.

## KANSAS CITY

Kansas City again - a report today that former President Truman - "is regaining his strength" rapidly. Mr. Truman's doctors adding that "he has been up from his bed several times - and expresses ~~an earnest~~ desire to go home." A wish that could be fulfilled - almost any time now, it seems. Good news.

## **SALMON RIVER**

*The famed Salmon River in Central Idaho has been known as one of the most picturesque of American waterways. Where it rages, wild and wonderful, through its lower gorge it was once called "The River of No Return." It was called that a few decades ago when Amos Burg, now of Juneau, Alaska, made his spectacular run down "The River of No Return."*

*Ah, but that was long ago, it seems. At any rate, the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Board - today are expressing deep concern "about the increased load of boating on the Salmon River." This the result of a flood of tourists the past few years - said to be "causing pollution and damage to the River." The Board, therefore, urging an immediate ban - on the issuance of trip permits. Adding, in effect that the once-proud "River of No Return" - is now rapidly approaching its own "point of no return."*



LONDON

Weather conditions in London today - according to British weather officials - ~~pretty near~~ <sup>almost</sup> normal for this time of year; rain in the morning - fog in the afternoon. <sup>this meant</sup> In years past - a perfect <sup>formula</sup> ~~recipe~~ for deadly London smog.

Ah, but London reports today - no smog at all. The city's air pollution chief Dr. Sean Craxford - giving major credit to a ten-year cleanup campaign. London long since banning - all but smokeless fuels in heavily populated areas. Also taking emergency steps - to control auto exhaust fumes. With the result - we are told - that smoke content in the air - is now down thirteen percent; toxic sulphur dioxide content - down six percent. <sup>Sean</sup> Dr. Craxford adding: "the sunshine now in central London" - when the sun actually shines - "is just as much and just as strong as it is in the depths of the country."

All of which raises the question, Warren; if they can do it over there - when do we get started over here?

SHORTY

Capitol Hill again - a royal welcome for W. T.

"Shorty" Smith of Waco, Texas; who was honored today -  
as the American Trucking Association's 1971 "Driver of  
the Year."

Shorty Smith - age 61 - a man who has driven the  
equivalent of 18 round trips to the moon - and nary an  
accident; a record - indeed, a remarkable record - which  
he attributes mainly to staying alert. Shorty Smith  
observing; "When you stop to think about it - <sup>isn't</sup> that what  
safety's all about - stopping to think?"