

Allen Jackson  
January 21, 1970

For the first time in more than a decade - the spectre of a recession reared its ugly head today at the White House. Paul W. McCracken - the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers - citing a nationwide cutback in homebuilding; tantamount - said he - to an actual housing recession. Ironically, McCracken blames the decline largely on inflation - which has made mortgage money so expensive.

This coincides with a special statement today - from the President himself. Calling the downward trend in homebuilding - a "crisis situation of grave concern to our national well-being." The President further pledging all necessary steps - "to assure that the nation's housing needs are more fully met now."

Same as McCracken - the President also expressed strong concern - about the general effects of inflation. On the eve of his State of the Union message - observing that "some needed Federal programs will have to be postponed - so that

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we can live within our means." And he again warned management and labor - not to base wage and price decisions on expectations of continued inflation. "Those who do so - are bound to lose" - said the President.

VETO FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

On a related front - a report today that the President will send a special message to Congress next Monday; a message vetoing, as promised - that newly-passed, nearly Twenty Billion Dollar health and welfare bill. As you know - the President considering this bill extremely inflationary.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill - Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott was predicting today - that Congress would sustain the President's expected veto. If not in the House - then surely in the Senate - said ~~Scott~~<sup>he</sup>. Adding that R<sup>epublican</sup> lawmakers in both Houses - are fully backing the White House.

## OWERRI

For the first time since the end of hostilities - Western newsmen were permitted today to enter the land that was once Biafra. On arrival at Owerri - finding just about what you'd expect in the wake of a brutal, all-out war. The stories they filed telling of stench and decay - suffering and famine /- pillage and rape; and worst of all - a relief program that has failed as yet to reach millions of war refugees.

However, the best available evidence is said to indicate - there has been no genocide - there has been no deliberate starvation. At least one observer reporting: "The amnesty is working - the people are emerging from the bush;" and, hopefully, help will arrive soon -for one and all.

PARIS

U Thant's brief stopover in Paris this week - a source of continuing repercussions. The U.N. Secretary General apparently failing in an attempt to appease the French - over his handling of the Biafra situation; with the result that French President Pompidou issued today - an unprecedented statement. Expressing regret "that aid destined for Biafra and the U.N. representative himself" - meaning U Thant - "were not able to arrive on the scene faster." Pompidou adding in regard to future relief - that <sup>e</sup>he would insist "energetically on the humanitarian vocation of the United Nations."

## VIETNAM

War news from Vietnam tells today of a number of shelling attacks on American forces - the heaviest since last September. Enemy gunners pounding eighteen U.S. bases and installations - mainly in key provinces around Saigon.

On the brighter side - only scattered ground fighting. With the enemy's long-threatened winter offensive - up to now, at least, a big dud.

2:20  
MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - an Israeli punitive task force has plunged deep into Jordan. The Israelis battling Jordanian, Saudi Arabian and Arab guerilla forces for ~~twenty-three~~ <sup>two</sup> hours - before returning to Israel today. Tel Aviv calling this the longest single operation - since the ~~end~~ <sup>end</sup> of open warfare in Nineteen-Sixty-Seven.

At the same time - Baghdad - the government of Iraq today executed ~~twelve~~ <sup>16</sup> persons. These including five retired Iraqi military officers - accused of attempting an abortive coup. Also, a number of junior officers, police officials and at least one civilian - accused of ~~conspiring~~ <sup>conspiring</sup> against the state or else spying for Israel, the United States or Iran.

## VATICAN

For Christians the world over - this week has been officially designated a "Week of Prayers for Unity." At the Vatican - Rome - Pope Paul today addressing himself to the same subject. Asserting that Roman Catholics must end their own quarrels and divisions - before they can ever hope to restore unity with Protestant and Orthodox Churches. The Pope adding that, indeed, the  difficulties in the way of Christian unity - sometimes "seem insurmountable."



## EAST BERLIN

On the other side of that Berlin Wall - East Germany's Walter Ulbricht pulled something of an about face today. In a written statement expanding on certain remarks he made Monday; in the process, apparently turning his back on possible East and West German talks - which he had earlier seemed to approve.

The Communist leader now asserting that official recognition of his government - is an "indispensable prerequisite" to East and West German relations. Ulbricht adding: "This is not a question of legal hair-splitting - it is a matter of equal relations under international law."

SACRAMENTO

(30)

Dr. Max Rafferty - California's State Superintendent of Education - front and center today at Sacramento. Urging a new system of merit pay increases for teachers - instead of automatic raises based largely on longevity.

Next question: How can you possibly tell with any certainty - which teacher really merits a merit increase?

To which Max Rafferty replies: "I could tell in ten minutes - by just asking the first ten kids I met in a school."

~~the theory apparently - you can't fool kids.~~

*And he meant, Warren - he wasn't kidding.*

11:30

11:40

[Commercial]

12:40

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BEMIDJI

(1)

The weather story today - on the order of a broken record. Temperatures hitting thirty-six below at Bemidji, Minnesota - / thirty-five below at Grand Forks, North Dakota - a record twenty-eight below at Minneapolis; with the bulk of the nation - continuing to shiver in the grip of another cold wave.

Now this: A report today from the U.S. Geological Survey - discussing the factors that led up to the Great Ice Age. Coming to the conclusion that "another Ice Age - is a possibility." But if and when - we are told / it will be "far, far in the future," believe it or not.

Now - low Levels so long until then  
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