

Tuesday, March 27, 1973

CLARK

At long last the start of the fourth and final phase of operation Homecoming. The last of American POW's held in South Vietnam arriving today at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Thirty-two men in all led by Army Colonel Benjamin Purcell of Columbus, Georgia. "Man's most precious possession - second only to life - is freedom," said Colonel Purcell. Adding: "Today, thirty-two of us have regained our freedom - and the chance to start again our life."

Another fifty held in Laos and North Vietnam - are due to start home tonight. Then sixty-seven more - a day later.

PHNOM PENH

Meanwhile, the U.S. was resuming its troop withdrawals from South Vietnam. Nearly a thousand men heading home today - with the final five thousand or so soon to follow.

Meanwhile, there was a continuation of heavy fighting in Cambodia. Communist forces - attempting to isolate the Cambodian capitol of Phnom Penh. This apparently undeterred - by heavy U.S. bombing. The White House, nevertheless stresses that the bombing will continue - until "such time as there is a cease-fire in Cambodia."

OTTAWA

Canada announced today - it will remain a member of the Vietnam International Control Commission. External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp saying Canada has decided to stay on - because of the "psychological impact - that withdrawal might have. He asserted however, that Canada reserves the right - to review its decision in sixty days. If the two sides have not moved toward a political solution by then - said Sharp - no question, that's it.

VETO

~~The White House again - the~~ President Nixon today vetoed a two point six billion dollar vocational rehabilitation bill; calling it one of several bills introduced in Congress "which mask bad legislation beneath alluring labels."

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This the President's first veto since the start of the Ninety-Third Congress. But he indicated there may be more. The President saying: "There are more than a dozen other bills already before Congress - which also carry extravagant price tags."

The President adding: "If we allow the big spenders in Congress to sweep aside budgetary restraints - we can expect an increase of more than fifty billion in federal spending." And that - said he - "would force upon^{us} the unacceptable choice of either raising taxes substantially"- or again risking an inflationary spiral.

DENVER

For Federal Marshall Floyd Grim - who
was wounded last night at Wounded Knee, South Dakota
emergency surgery today ^{at} ~~in suburban~~ Denver. Doctors
relieving the pressure caused by a bullet that passed
near his spine. The patient's vital signs later said
to be "fine", his condition - stable. Doctors adding:
There is some paralysis - although "the extent is
unknown at this time."

JOHNS HOPKINS

To victims of kidney disease - the cost of treatment is often astronomical. For dialysis treatments - cleansing the blood by machine - up to twenty-five thousand a year. Now at last - there's hope of an economic break-through.

Doctor MacKenzie Walser of Johns Hopkins University - reporting today the development of a chemical means for treating kidney disease. This by daily doses of so-called Keto-acids - in combination with a low protein diet. Doctor Walser adding that his "Keto-acid" therapy - has already proven successful in six out of ten cases tested and the cost - on a mass production basis - expected to run only about one fifth that of dialysis.

PEKING

Red China's Premier Chou En Lai was at a reception today for visiting Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahodjo. This was followed by a chat with reporters. Chou hailing the resumption of U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam - saying: "That is good news - and that is the way it should be."

Chou also saying: The world has cried about six hundred American prisoners of war in Vietnam - but has not given a thought to the eighty-thousand Pakistani's held in India. And he added: If the world press wants justice - then it must point that out - too."

AMSTERDAM

At Amsterdam - a three-day Europe-America conference; aimed at finding solutions -- to problems that currently be[^]set the Western alliance. Except that today's main speaker - was really stressing the positive over the negative.

Former U S Under Secretary of State Eugene Rostow - asserting the world is not splitting into blocks, as some would have him believe. Rather it's becoming "so tightly integrated" - said he - "that it may soon have no alternative but a genuine peace."

From the Federal Aviation Administration

*a ban today on virtually all supersonic airline flights /
"over the land mass or territorial waters of the United
States." Said ban - to take effect as of April twenty-
seven. The F A A contending that "present technology -
cannot deal in a practical manner with the sonic boom
problem."*

MRS. BOGGS

On Capitol Hill the widow of the late House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs - was sworn in today to succeed her husband. Mrs. Corinne Boggs - becoming the fifteenth woman member of Congress. She termed it a truly bitter-sweet experience. "I feel very happy, of course - to be so beautifully received by all of Hale's old friends" said she. Then a slight pause and she added: "I'm sorry this day had to come at all."

LABOR

From the U.S. Labor Department - the latest figures on U.S. High School and College enrollment. The percentage of black and other minority group dropouts from high school is said to have dropped by nearly half over the past decade. For the first time, moreover, the percentage of non-whites going on to college - now said to be - "roughly the same" - as for whites.

Equality of education - no longer a dream - it seems, but fast becoming a reality.

GULF OF AKABA

The seeming discovery of a long sought, all-powerful shark repellent - is reported today from the remote Gulf of Akaba. Dr. Eugene Clark of the University of Maryland coming across a species of fish called the Red Sea Sole; a fish only six to nine inches long - but capable of emitting a wondrous milk-like substance.

This substance, whatever it is - in its natural state - apparently harmless to humans. When mixed with sea water though - quickly producing convulsions, paralysis, hemorrhage and death in small fish. Portions of Red Sea Sole - have also been offered to small sharks. Doctors Clark reporting: That when the predators bared their razor sharp teeth - and opened their mouths to gulp it down - instant lock jaw!

The next step in the doctor's testing program will take him into the nearby Red Sea of which the Gulf of Akaba is an arm, where he intends to test the Sole on tiger shark measuring up to eighteen feet in length; fearsome creatures

that have been known to eat - not only marine life but sea birds - tin cans - lumps of coal - and, in one case, a thirty-foot roll of tar paper.

Doctor Clark observing: Bill "If the Red Sea Sole repels the tiger shark it will probably repel anything."

PARIS

Here in the States as we know there is a campaign against the internal combustion engine. Environmentalists and others - demanding strict emission controls; also, seeking to ban - the construction of additional super-highways. Over at Paris they have a "save the Seine" campaign. A new freeway was built along the Right Bank of the Seine a few years ago which Parisiens call "La Toboggan." Instead of gliding along on La Toboggan today his highway is jam packed with cars. So there's a plan afoot to build a second freeway - along the Left Bank; over which much controversy and waving of arms.

On the one side - French President Pompidou is saying: Paris must be adapted to the automobile even if it means losing "a certain aestheticism." On the other side, a small but determined group is deploring what it calls - a continuous avalanche of automobiles." And how will it all come out?

← Says one Parisien newspaper: "In France, we want

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*reforms - on the strict condition that nothing can be
changed." Oo la la!*