

Friday, March 16, 1973

CLARK

*Another freedom flight from Hanoi - arrived today at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Thirty-two more Americans released by the Viet Cong. Chief spokesman - Air Force Colonel Theodore Guy; who thanked President Nixon - as he put it - "for bringing us home" with dignity and honor. Major Guy adding: "There is no doubt in my mind that the decisions made in December to bomb key targets in North Vietnam hastened an end to this war and brought us home today."*

*Next to come down the ramp Army Major Floyd Thompson, a prisoner for nine years - longer than any other man in all U.S. history. And how did he feel about coming home? A rakish Green Beret and an ear to ear grin - telling it all.*

**SAIGON FOLLOW CLARK**

**Meanwhile, the U S was ordering another  
halt in its troop withdrawals from South Vietnam.**

**Officials saying the new freeze would remain in effect -  
pending enemy compliance with terms of the cease fire  
agreement pending the release of names as well as  
the place and date of release - for the last group of  
American P O W's still in ~~Communist~~ Communist hands.  
These totally a hundred-and-forty six in all.**

PARIS

At Paris today - a three hour meeting of the finance ministers of the free world <sup>5</sup> fourteen richest nations. A meeting aimed at finding ways and means of coping with the present world monetary crisis. And judging from a ~~lax~~ later communique - it was a complete success.

The Finance Ministers <sup>4</sup> ~~are~~ announcing <sup>ed</sup> completion of a new package agreement ; one that's said to "insure an orderly exchange rate system" - when trading resumes next week. The U S agreeing to resume limited support of the dollar <sup>A</sup> on world money markets; <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ all <sup>the</sup> others agreeing, in turn - to float their own ~~commensurate~~ currencies. <sup>Says</sup> U S Treasury Secretary George Shultz; ~~commenting:~~ <sup>'</sup> "~~Certainly~~ we are very satisfied." Dutch Finance Minister Roelof Nelissen saying: "The U S attitude used to be one of benign neglect - now it is one of benign cooperation."

**WHITE HOUSE**

*A flat rejection today - to the latest Democratic call for a reduction in U S forces in Europe and elsewhere overseas. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler saying "the forces we maintain overseas - are there in relation to our security interest." Adding that unilateral U S cut backs - would ~~be unwise~~, be "unwise - not in <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ best interest. <sup>^</sup> ~~of the United States.~~*

# RAILS

Earlier this week <sup>we heard of a</sup> ~~you may recall~~

~~an~~ tentative settlement of labor difficulties in the

U S railway industry; <sup>But it all</sup> ~~except that the proposed new~~

~~fact~~ now seems to be falling apart. Three of the

nation's ~~max~~ major rail unions - threatening today to

balk at signing the agreement. J W O'Brien of the

sheet metal workers explaining: "The more we study

the proposal - the more we see some ground has not

been plowed."

# AMTRAK

*A related item: The U S transportation department reporting to Congress today on the first two years of Amtrak. Asserting that "progress has been made toward improved rail passenger service - and a unified national system, as intended by Congress. Adding that the new semi-public corporation - "has a major refurbishment program under way."*

*The report admitting, however, that many of Amtrak's improvements - "are not yet apparent to the public." And many more - "will take additional time to implement." In the same vein - urging the elimination of three long haul passenger trains; <sup>one</sup> from Chicago to Miami - <sup>one</sup> from New York and Washington to Kansas City == and, <sup>a third</sup> from Washington to Parkersburg, West Virginia.*

*The report contending that this is essential if Amtrak is ever to stabilize its present financial structure.*

## LONDON

*From out of the past - a secret file of the British Foreign Office dating back to Nineteen Twenty Eight - published today in London - shows the existence then of a bitter rivalry between the U.S. and Britain over trade, over disarmament, and over lingering grievances from World War One. Indeed, Anglo-American relations were said to have reached "a dangerous low - a low that did not preclude war."*

*In the end though - our differences were patched over as we all know. This was due in part - it now turns out - to one A R L Craigie - a British expert on the U.S. who urged concessions to the U.S. - based on, 'quote "the growing American supremacy in world affairs." To prove his point, Craigie noting that compared to Britain - the U.S. was "twenty-five times as large - five times as wealthy, three times as popular, twice as ambitious - and almost invulnerable."*

## QUEEN

*London again - Britain's Queen Elizabeth dedicated a new London Bridge. It's the successor to those previous spans built on the same side - first in Ten Fourteen and next in Eighteen-Thirty-One. The Queen's royal guard today including medieval pikemen and musketeers - as well as police sharp shooters - stationed on nearby buildings. The latter serving as an extra added precaution - against the threat of a possible IRA terrorist attack.*

*Incidentally, the Queen arrived for today's ceremony - by way of the Thames - aboard a Royal Barge! In the same fashion as King William the Fourth - when he dedicated London Bridge number two. The Queen later saying: "I have seen this bridge from the best vantage point - from the water - and I am glad to report - it shows no sign of falling down.*



## **SYDNEY**

*At Sydney Australia - a visit today from Prince Philip; in his capacity - as President of the Australian Conservation Society. This - leading to an extortion plot. An anonymous caller to government headquarters - demanding an undisclosed amount of cash. Saying he had planted eight bombs - along a route that Prince Philip was supposed to have followed enroute to an official function.*

*No payment though. Police later locating - and disarming two of the bombs mentioned; while Prince Philip merely changed his route.*

## SAN FRANCISCO

*One of America's great unsung heroes - was finally given his due today at San Francisco. Seventy eight year old Frank Epperson - receiving a plaque along with the plaudits of family, friends and business associates. This marking the fiftieth anniversary of Frank Epperson's marvelous invention - the "epsicle."*

*And what's epsicle? You've never heard of it?*

*Neither had I. But most of us have tasted it. The epsicle getting a new name shortly after it's birth then becoming popsicle. As such its total sales - now running about nine billion a year.*

## **BAD GASTEIN**

*In the ads on TV - in newspapers and magazines - practically everywhere cigarette smokers are picked as young handsome virile. Now comes a report saying young and handsome, possibly, but virile - hardly.*

*This in connection with a study of impotence - conducted at a health spa at Bad Gastein in Austria. Doctors claiming they were able to cure sixty percent of their patients by merely cutting off their cigarettes. The report summing up its findings, Bill - saying "chain smokers -are only half men."*

**ST. LOUIS**

*From St. Louis - the story of another "kissing bandit" - a young man who accosted ~~P~~retty eighteen year old Loretta Kopecki - in a downtown elevator; taking two bucks from her purse - giving her a quick kiss in return. The perfect crime - till he was caught after a brief chase.*

*But wait - there's more. The vagaries of modern day law - ruling out a robbery charge. Police saying - there was simply insufficient evidence. Ah, but that kiss - something else again. For that the perpetrator was charged with common assault.*

*Oh yes, and a salute to CBS radio station KFGO - Fargo, North Dakota - this week celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary on the air. Here's to Fargo! And so long until Monday.*

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