

Thursday, May 31, 1973
Reid Collins

REYKJAVIK

At Reykjavik, Iceland - the start of two days of talks - between President Nixon and French President Pompidou; and the so-called "Year of Europe" - immediately taking on a new lustre. Details later disclosed - by Henry Kissinger and French spokesman Denis Baudouin.

The two Presidents agreeing to explore plans for a fall summit meeting - of all U.S. and European allies. Dr. Kissinger to meet next week with French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert - to see whether an agreeable "declaration of principles" can be reached. Dr. Kissinger saying: "We are not trying to hand them an American blueprint." Adding, however: "We have worked out satisfactory procedures - so we can go ahead with an examination of the issues we want to put before the alliance."

All of this - coming as a concession on Pompidou's part. He had previously rejected the idea of a U.S. and

and European summit - for fear that it might weaken

France's bargaining position.

WATERGATE FOLLOW REYKJAVIK

Back in Washington - the President's former chief of staff was testifying in secret today - before the Senate Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations. - H.R. Haldeman later telling reporters - there had been "no intent or desire to impede or cover up any aspect of the Watergate investigation." Adding that "any other actions - were taken without my knowledge or the knowledge of the President."

Haldeman further declared: "I can categorically state that at no time did I, in any way - direct, suggest, or participate in any cover-up of the Watergate investigation." Indeed, his actions - he insisted - were perfectly "proper."

GURNEY FOLLOW WATERGATE

More on the same - from a member of the Senate Watergate Committee. Senator Gurney of Florida calling for speedy testimony - from "top-level" witnesses; those who can tell, quote, "whether or not and to what extent" - the President was actually involved. This - said he - in order to "lay to rest" - the current flood of insinuation and innuendo.

Gurney then went on to say: "Thus far, we have had only minor witnesses - who can shed little real light on the involvement of the President." "However, their testimony" he continued - "has provided huge black headlines - charging Presidential involvement based solely on hearsay ^{or} opinion." Gurney adding that "both the Presidency and the nation - deserve better than this."

SENATE

The Senate today approved, sixty-three-to-nineteen - a measure aimed at cutting off all funds for U.S. bombing in Cambodia. A similar measure - has also been approved by the House.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon announcing that B-Fifty-Two bombing attacks in Cambodia - have already been cut back by one-third, but the bomb loads of individual planes increased.

PHILADELPHIA

In the Deputy Warden's Office at Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia - a grievance meeting today; called at the ^{request} ~~insistence~~ - of two alleged cop-killers; when suddenly - a flash of cold steel. Deputy Warden Robert Fromhold - was instantly stabbed to death. Warden Patrick Curran attempting to intervene - and he, too, was stabbed to death. Prison Captain Leroy Taylor and two other guards were also injured - before the knife-weilders were finally subdued.

Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, former police commissioner - later renewing his frequent demand for a restoration of capital punishment. "If these two men had been executed" - said he - "they wouldn't be around to commit two more murders."

EARTH ORBIT

In the flight of America's Skylab-One - an earth resources observation scheduled for today had to be cancelled; an attempt to conserve electricity - in the face of a new power failure.

There was still plenty to do though. Mission Commander Pete Conrad - again shooting the sun; while fellow astronaut Paul Weitz - repairing a jammed astronomical camera. The new energy crisis also ^{spurred} ~~hastened~~ plans for a proposed space walk - to free the Skylab's solar generating wing.

DUBLIN

The new President-elect of the Irish Republic: Erskine Childers - age sixty-eight and British-born; the first Protestant - ever to contest a nationwide Irish election; and more than that - the candidate of Ireland's Fianna Fail opposition party. Now - the successor to retiring Eamon De Valera; by virtue of a surprise win - over his Catholic opponent, Tom O'Higgins.

The President-elect - later issuing a victory statement. Saying: "I am deeply honored and humbled - at this magnificent gesture by the Irish people." Observers adding that Childers' win was also a dramatic gesture of conciliation - toward violence-wracked Northern Ireland.

NEW DELHI

An Indian Airlines jetliner crashed and burned tonight - just moments away from a landing at New Delhi's Palma Airport. Of the sixty-five aboard - at least fifty-four were feared killed. The dead included - the head of India's Ministry of Steel and Mines.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "NOME NUGGET"

another

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas; with

far out tale - from the Far North. Lowell...

NOME NUGGET

You have a favorite newspaper don't you? Most people do. I have two: The Cripple Creek Gold Rush, the predecessor of which I once edited. And The Nome Nugget, published way up there on Bering Sea, just across from Siberia. Nome, you may recall, was another of the rip-roaring gold mining camps back at the turn of the century.

Albro Gregory, editor of The Nome Nugget, has a fascinating piece on his editorial page about Clarence Berry, one of the few men to strike it rich in the Klondike and who then didn't let all the gold slip through his fingers. Berry made his first big strike on Eldorado, one of the Klondike tributaries to the Yukon. From there he took out a million and a half, which I suppose would be the equivalent of five million today.

He also struck it rich a second time on one of the tributaries of the Tanana, on Ester Creek near Fairbanks, Alaska. He later hit the jackpot for a third time at Nome.

Not bad for a chap, described as "an honest, hard-working, ambitious, home-loving, sober bartender - and who was flat broke when he went North.

In time he built up such a large fortune that his heirs for four succeeding generations have been rich. One of them has just given a grant of money to establish a gold museum display at the University of Alaska, plus some scholarships for students.

The part of the Clarence Berry story I like is the part about his ~~was~~ unusual generosity. In front of his Mondike cabin he had a large coal-oil can full of gold! Beside it was a bottle of whiskey, and a sign reading: "Help yourself!"

How would you like suddenly to come upon a bucket of gold, Bill, and to be told to help yourself?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "NOME NUGGET"

Thank you, Lowell. More - in a minute.

MIAMI

From Miami, Florida - the story of a cat who may have made the Guinness Book of World Records - the hard way. His name - is Andy. His master and now publicist - Florida State Senator Ken Myers; who reports that Andy fell from a sixteenth-floor window - landed on the pavement below with a sound like "a pistol shot" - and then got up and walked away.

That - says Senator Myers - the world's longest ^{free} fall by a living cat.