

Wed. Jan. 8-69.

On Wall Street - in the White House -
in the Halls of Congress - the big concern today was
money. President Johnson for one expressing grave
concern over the latest jump in the nation's prime
interest rate - now a record seven percent. Presidential
aides adding that this concern "will be reflected" in
L B J's final budget scheduled for presentation shortly
to Congress. A budget - we are told - that will attempt
to "combat inflation" as well "ease pressures on the
market."

How the President hopes to accomplish this
feat of legerdemain ^{is} his own secret, up to now. However,
congressional sources ^{are} predicting an almost certain
request - for another year's extension of the present
tax surcharge; if not ~~at the present~~ ^{rate of} ten percent -
then at least ~~of~~ five percent. Although President-Elect
Nixon has already said - he's against it.

Meanwhile the stock market continues its slump - with the Dow Jones industrials falling another four and a half points today -- for a total loss of more than thirty points over the last three days.

WASHINGTON

Washington again - a double murder today

in the nation's capitol. The victims - a pair of F B I

agents. Attempting to capture a suspect in the tenth

bank robbery in metropolitan Washington in eight days -

when they were gunned down in cold blood. Police

promptly obtaining homicide warrants against Billy

Austin Bryant - twenty - nine -- a recent escapee from

the Federal Reformatory at Lorton, Virginia.

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East - still at flash point tonight. With Jordan announcing plans for a nationwide military call-up -- of all eighteen year old males. While Israel was charging Arab guerrillas -- with another terrorist strike from neighboring ~~the~~ Lebanon.

At the same time - President DeGaulle was ^{again} under fire today from the French press - for slapping an arms imbargo on ~~Jerusalem~~ ^f Israel. However, a DeGaulle aide dismiss^{ed}~~ing~~ the criticism ~~←~~ saying:
"It has been noted that Israeli influences make themselves felt in certain ways - in circles close to the press."

VICTORIA

The State of Victoria, Australia hit hard today by its worst series of brush fires in twenty-five years. At last report - the tragedy claiming upwards of a dozen lives ; including at least eight who were trapped in their cars [^] when a wall of fire swept across the main highway ^{near} ~~between~~ Melbourne, ~~and Geelong~~.


Temperatures of a hundred plus and sixty mile an hour winds - making it all but impossible to check the flames.

NEW YORK

From a man who scouts top executives for over-seas work a charge today that the so-called "Ugly American" is "still alive and kicking."

This - according to executive recruiter George Baan of Handy Associates, New York. Citing, for example - a recent ~~study~~ study of American executives - employed in Japan ten years or longer; one third of whom - had failed to learn even rudimentary Japanese. Still more said to be "obviously imbued with the ~~idea~~ idea of inherent American superiority;" to the point where they cared little about their foreign employees only about their own futures.

Result: said George Baan, "Foreign sensibilities are sometimes bruised so badly - that an American company simply has to pull out at a loss."

However, the days of the "Ugly American" business man ^{are} - increasingly numbered - he adds, and 

noting a new breed of overseas executives - the so-called
"international American," who is "well grounded in the
most modern management techniques" - and above all is
"a man of good will." -- Norway.

The Vice President calling the land of his
forebears: a land of "wonderful coffee, wonderful
cakes and wonderful people." As such, ^{would it you say} ~~is worth~~
a perfect prelude to "wonderful, wonderful, Copenhagen."

COPENHAGEN

For Vice President Hubert Humphrey - a
visit today to Copenhāgen enroute home from the
funeral of Trygve Lie ^{and} - ~~followed by~~ a brief tour of
his ancestral homeland -- Norway.

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a perfect prelude to "wonderful, wonderful, Copenhagen?"

SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE

Since time immemorial - taxes have generally been called "the curse of civilization". So what about a land where the taxpayers eagerly pay more than their fair share? Impossible you say. But it's true. There is such a place - in the South Seas -- Bougainville. In the current edition of the Papua and New Guinea newsletter we read how taxpayers there are paying up to twenty per cent above assessed tax rates - because they want their South Sea paradise to be developed.

Among all **How's that for "enlightened self-interest?"**

a British official: "Take your blanket-blank hat off when you're talking to a blanket-blank lady."

Anything blanket-blank
from you, Wainman?

LONDON

For Hollywood sex pot Zsa Zsa Gabor -
the leading role today in a suburban London courtroom
drama. ~~Miss~~ Miss Gabor pleading guilty to a charge of
trying to bring a dog into Britain without permission -
also admitting she used offensive language in dealing
with the customs men. For which she was fined
- a total of one hundred and twenty bucks and costs.

The dog of course - an open and shut case.

But what was it she said that cost her so much?

Among other things - Miss Gabor reportedly telling
a British official: "Take your blankety blank hat off -
when you're talking to a blankety-blank lady."

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Anything blankety-blank
from you, Warren?

NOORDWIJKERHOUT FOLLOW VATICAN

~~Also~~
~~Meaning~~ the hierarchy of the progressive

Dutch Roman Catholic Church was meeting today at Noordwijkerhout in the Netherlands. There rejecting a resolution - that would have called the Pope's recent ban on ~~birth~~ 'h control totally unacceptable.

Instead, the Dutch Catholics adopting a second resolution - ~~was~~ calling the Pope's arguments against birth control "not convincing". So they were saying at Noord-wij-ker-hout,