

WASHINGTON

Thurs. Nov. 5-40.

In Washington ~~again~~ a meeting of top scientists -
concerned chiefly with the taming of the H-Bomb; ^{today were} predicting
~~tonight~~ the development of "effective fusion power" - within
our lifetime." This - we are told - to replace eventually
coal, gas, oil and even nuclear power - as the major source
of the earth's energy needs. And best of all - the potential
supply of hydrogen power is said to be virtually inexhaustible;
the quantities of heavy hydrogen which now exists in all the
world's waters - supposedly sufficient to supply power at
a rate about one hundred times present consumption - for a
period of ten billion years.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a Cabinet meeting today - which quickly turned into another political post-mortem. The President calling Tuesday's election - a "tremendous success". Observing that the new make-up of the Senate - will be "very helpful" in promoting the Administration's major foreign and domestic goals. In this connection, the President making it plain - he's counting on solid support from Conservative Senator-elect James Buckley of New York - also, Democratic Senator-elect Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. The President adding that he was convinced - his own campaigning and that of Vice President ~~Spive~~ Agnew had proven "very worthwhile."

PARIS

Over in Paris - a not-so-funny thing happened today - on the way to Vietnam peace talks. Hanoi's Xuan Thuy - charging that President Nixon had "lied" about recent U.S. progress in Vietnam, ~~that - said he~~ in a futile effort to win more votes - in the just-concluded U.S. elections. America's David Bruce thereupon observing that Xuan Thuy had clearly demonstrated - he has no understanding of democratic processes. Bruce adding: "The record of the Nixon Administration on deescalating the war and reducing U.S. forces in South Vietnam - is clear and needs no elaboration."

And then - it was all downhill. The talks that followed finally reaching a breaking point - an American spokesman said later - when Xuan Thuy made a "personally insulting, derogatory remark about the President of the United States." Bruce promptly declaring that Thuy's conduct - "was shameful and completely inadmissible." And he added: "At least, one should be cautious - if one cannot be quiet." End of parley.

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

Still - the war continues to wind down; as evidenced

by latest casualty figures ^{from} from Saigon. The number of

American combat deaths over the past week - coming to

twenty-four, ~~that's~~ ^{fatal} the lowest - in more than five years.

According to the U.S. Command - the result of a battlefield

lull coupled with increasing Vietnamization of the war - as

U.S. withdrawals continue. ~~Report~~

In the Middle East - a stillness at Suez tonight.

~~The~~ ² official cease-fire between the Egyptians and Israelis

~~that came~~ [^] to an end at five this afternoon, New York-time;

^{now} giving way ~~now~~ to a tacit agreement & extending the truce

for another ninety days. At last report - both sides

maintaining a full alert; watching and waiting - but no

shooting. The same holding true, for the most part - along

the Jordan River *between Israel and Jordan.*

LONDON FOLLOW SUEZ

Meanwhile, Israeli Premier Golda Meir, ~~was~~

stopping off at London today - en route home from the United

Nations, ^{said} ~~Madame Meir asserting that~~ Israel will continue

to observe the Mideast cease-fire - as long ^{as} Egypt does.

"If they want to extend it - we will be happy to cooperate

one hundred per cent" - said she. "But if Egypt starts

shooting" - she went on - "we will react." ~~And she added:~~

~~"We can defend ourselves - most effectively,"~~ ^{said} Madame

Meir ~~insisting that~~ ^{and that} there will be no peace talks - till

Egypt has withdrawn those disputed missiles.

MOOLOOLABA

An epic voyage across the Pacific was finally completed today - with the arrival of the balsam raft "La Balsa" at Mooloolaba, Australia. The strange craft and her crew of four ~~men~~ completing a seven thousand-mile journey ~~which~~ that began more than five months ago at Guayaquil, Ecuador. ~~And they did it~~ without a motor or even a sail - drifting all the way.

Professor Vital Alzar of Spain ^{was} the man who financed the voyage and also skippered the twenty-six-foot raft, ~~less~~ less than a foot of which was still above water ~~at~~ ^{at Mooloolaba Australia.} ~~the way~~ when at last they reached shore. Other members of the international crew - including Marco Modena of France Norman Tetrenault of Canada and Gabriel Sales of Chile. The voyage proving - said Professor Alzar - that South American boatmen could have made their way to the South Seas - centuries and centuries ago; ^(merely by) drifting along ~~with~~ the ocean currents.

The current worth of a college education - subject of a double-barreled analysis today.

First - Dr. Ivar Berg Junior of Columbia

University; who asserts that modern colleges are training people for commonplace jobs - where they will really use very little of the knowledge they've gained in school; with the result - says he - that more and more students are becoming more and more cynical- about the real value of an education.

Next - Dr. Paul Hollander of the University of

Massachusetts at Amherst; who charges that college standards are being lowered - by a growing climate of permissiveness on campus. This - said he - leading to a disastrous increase in the number of unqualified degree-holders.

By different roads then - both men apparently coming

to the same conclusion; as perhaps best expressed - by Dr.

Berg; who says that four years of college - is all too often

"a great training robbery."

— Warren —

CHAMPAGNE

From the Champagne region of France ^{comes word} ~~a report~~

~~today telling~~ of an all-time record harvest this year; with an "unparalleled" sunny autumn - permitting the production of more than twenty-eight million gallons of champagne; a figure - nearly double the fifteen million ^{gallons} of a year ago.

This - according to the French Professional Champagne Growers Association; which adds, what's more - "the quality this year is extremely good." Not quite as fine as "the miracle year" of 'Fifty-Nine, ~~as we are told~~, but still - "a first class vintage year." ~~To which I can only~~

~~add, Warren - I'll drink to that.~~

If Warren and I had a bottle of this extra-special bubbly - we'd drink a toast to all of you - as I say s-l-u-t-m.