

Monday, December 23, 1974

VAIL

President Ford met for two hours today with key advisors at Vail, Colorado. Then it was out on the slopes - for a second day of skiing. The President, at times mingling with fellow skiers; and obviously enjoying his first vacation since taking office last August.

National Security Advisor, Dr. Kissinger, is to report back - "within a matter of days."

~~Back~~ In Washington - C I A Director William Colby was meeting today - with his top aides. This in line with ~~weekend orders~~ ^{instructions} from the President - to make sure ~~that~~ the C I A is now ~~no longer spying~~ ^{checking} on Americans here at home.

~~And now~~ The latest ^{is that} The President ^{has ed} ~~ordered~~ a complete investigation of the C I A's ~~alleged~~ ^{operations, this} ~~to be~~ to be carried out by Secretary of State Kissinger ⁱⁿ his capacity as the President's National Security Advisor. Dr. Kissinger ~~ordered~~ to report back - "within a matter of days."

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - Syrian and Lebanese armed forces were placed on maximum alert today. This to guard against the possibility of an Israeli attack - on the Al Adha, or Sacrifice Feast^{Day} - a major Moslem holiday beginning tomorrow.

HOLY LAND FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST

And, Israeli ~~troops~~ troops in the ~~occupied Holy Land~~ -
were also placed on full alert, ~~today, and this was~~
~~so~~ especially ~~true~~ at Bethlehem. The Israelis attempting
to protect thousands of pilgrims ^{who are there} ~~come~~ to visit the
traditional birthplace of Jesus. ~~Christ~~.

BETHLEHEM

The nation's second big steel maker - Bethlehem Steel - today raised its prices in defiance of the President's anti-inflation campaign. A spokesman saying its new prices - will be "in line" with those recently announced by its competition - meaning U S Steel which is still attempting to justify its own action. Indeed, the latter today cutting back its announced price hikes, ~~by about twenty percent.~~ But the next move seems to be up to the President's wage and price stability council.

NEW YORK

Former President Nixon last week paid more than eleven thousand dollars - in back New York State taxes. This according to an announcement today -

Proke-a-cheeno

from State Tax Commissioner Mario Procaccino; who said the final accounting was the ~~work~~ result of an eight months investigation. Procaccino stressing ~~however~~ ^{that} there was ~~absolutely~~ "no evidence of fraud."

WATERGATE

In the Watergate ~~cover-up~~ trial - another day of closing arguments; including a surprise suggestion from Defense Counsel William Hundley - that it may have been Charles Colson who actually okayed the Watergate ~~bug~~ bugging. Hundley's accusation based in part on a taped statement from ^{Pres.} ~~Richard~~ Nixon - who said that, "Colson may ~~damn well~~ have been the trigger man."

SUPREME COURT

The U S Supreme Court today issued a flurry of rulings - in its final decision day for the year. These including a six to three verdict - upholding the President's right to grant pardons and impose individual conditions; and to do so - almost any way he sees fit.

The court observing that the President's pardoning power comes directly from the Constitution. Adding: "The very essence of the pardoning power is to treat each ~~discretionary~~ case individually."

NEW YORK

A man who served as an aide to Hubert Humphrey during his last Senatorial race was indicted ~~before~~ by a federal grand jury today in New York. Jack L. Chestnut accused of taking twelve thousand in illegal contributions - from the Associated Milk Producers, of Kansas.

ZURICH FRANKFORT

The price of gold was again soaring to new ~~in~~ heights today on the bouillon market^s in London, Frankfort and Paris. ~~But~~ Highest ~~of all - ~~was~~~~ at Zurich where the last quoted price was more than a hundred and ninety--three bucks, an ounce.

Observers adding that the price of gold could ~~hit as high as~~ ^{go to} two hundred ~~an ounce~~ by January One, ~~That, of course,~~ the day when U S citizens ~~can~~ ^{will be allowed} again, ^λ legally ^{to} own gold; ~~and the~~ ^{and} Speculators ^{are} ^λ hoping to cash in, on a big U S gold rush.

KREMLIN

Some forty Soviet Jews today presented a petition - to the Supreme Soviet - or Soviet Parliament in Moscow. The dissidents demanding the release of forty so-called "prisoners of Zion" - currently held in Soviet jails and labor camps.

PALMDALE

A prototype of the new supersonic B-1 bomber -
made its first test flight today from Palmdale,
California. The big plane climbing to ten thousand
feet, remaining aloft for an hour and a half -- and
then ~~was~~ landing at nearby Edwards Air Force base.

~~Civilian~~ Civilian test pilot Charles Bock ~~later~~
describing the flight as "entirely uneventful,"
~~And - therefore~~ "extremely successful."

~~Around~~ ^{At} this time of year I ~~have always~~ ^{usually} mentioned a book or two that ~~I thought~~ you might find especially interesting. ~~Personally I always have a half a dozen books on my table, for casual reading.~~ Here are two I ^{been} ^{ing} have read aloud to a member of the family who is ill. Both are thrilling; Both ~~are~~ about remarkable airmen.

^P If you are interested in exciting true stories don't miss PIONEER BUSH PILOT, the story of Noel Wien who was Alaska's first bush pilot, published by The University of Washington Press in Seattle. And, ~~don't miss~~ another put out recently by Rand McNally -- WAGER WITH THE WIND, the story of Don Sheldon, who today is Alaska's number one bush pilot. Both are full of hair-raising true stories. ~~This I can vouch for partly because~~ I have flown with both ~~men~~ -- Noel Wien and Don Sheldon. They are super airmen.

DOLLS

No doubt about it - the U S is currently in the grip of a nostalgia craze. ~~And~~ And one of the latest manifestations - ~~and~~ the National Geographic tells us - a renaissance in doll houses; especially the antique kind - which are now selling for anywhere from a hundred to a thousand dollars apiece.

As for furnishings - you can spend just as much as you like, the same as in real houses. A tea cup for example - on the usual one inch to one foot ~~scale~~ scale about two dollars; a chair - about ten dollars; and a copy of an old desk -- about three hundred and fifty dollars.

By the way, the world's most famous doll house - that of Britain's Queen Mary, now on display at Windsor Castle. But the most unique - perhaps that of Smithsonian Institution; a doll house so complete -- that even its ~~nursery~~ nursery has its own doll house.