

Wednesday, March 21, 1973

SAIGON

*From Saigon came an announcement today that the Viet Cong plan to release their last thirty-two P O W's this Saturday; a day earlier than previously announced; and, four days ahead of the official deadline.*

*Saigon sources adding that the North Vietnamese - may also release their remaining one-hundred-and-six prisoners at the same time. This would leave only seven military and two civilian U.S. prisoners - still in enemy hands. These in Laos.*

## PRISONERS

Meanwhile, the men who have already returned - were beginning to tell their stories; bit by bit - revealing hardships they endured. At Wright Patterson Air Force Base Major William Baugh saying: "We often wondered whether we had died and gone to hell." At San Antonio, Texas, Sergeant John Anderson saying: "Initially it's pretty much a state of shock - then you begin to roll with the punches." Asked if he meant literal punches - he declined to answer.

At Oakland, California - Navy Commander Charles Southwick was also discussing his first reaction to the U.S. - after six years in captivity. "I am not disappointed in what I see. I am overwhelmed," most of all - he said - "because everything here is so neat, clean and orderly."

## STATE

*From the U.S. State Department came a charge today that an U.S. Air Force cargo plane was fired on while flying over the Mediterranean. Their attackers identified as "two Libyan fighters" - who missed - luckily. A spokesman adding that the U.S. is now demanding all full explanation. "An unpardonable incident " said he.*

## SUPREME COURT

By a vote of five to four, the Supreme Court today upheld the Constitutionality - of using local property taxes to finance public schools. This in a Texas case - where the State was accused of ignoring differences between rich and poor school districts; a violation -- it was charged - of "equal protection under the law." The high court - ruling otherwise though. ¶ Associate Justice Lewis Powell - who wrote the majority opinion - conceding that such a system of school financing is "imperfect." Adding: "The need is apparent for reform in tax systems, which may well have relied too long and too heavily on the local property tax." "But the ultimate solutions" - said Justice Powell - "must come from the lawmakers - and from the democratic pressures of those who elect them."

SENATE

Former C I A Director John McCone -

who is now a director of giant I T and T <sup>was</sup> a witness  
today before a special senate sub-committee. McCone  
reporting that ~~that~~ I T and T ~~was~~ once offered one million  
to the federal government - to help prevent the election  
of Marxist Salvador Allende as President of Chile.  
McCone said, however, he was later informed by his  
successor at the C I A, Richard Helms -the government  
was simply not interested.



## JOHANNESBURG

*Billy Graham's latest crusade - is at Johannesburg, South Africa; where today he held a press conference. Discussing crime and punishment, he urges a return to the death penalty - "for certain crimes." Where capital punishment is administered equally to white and black - said he - "it's been proved to be a deterrent." Billy Graham also saying: "When a person is found guilty of rape - he should be castrated." Said he: "That would stop him pretty quick."*

## ROCKIES

*It was springtime in the Rockies today with more snow at most higher elevations, and with flood conditions along the Mississippi.*

*At Duluth, Minnesota - another sign of the season. Officials saying the St. Lawrence Seaway - will open again at eight A.M., a week from today; the earliest opening since the Seaway was completed in Nineteen Fifty-Nine.*

## **SPRING FOLLOW DULUTH**

*Spring also arrived along the highways and byways of Europe.*

*In Lond - daffodils blooming. On the French Riviera - top-less sun-bathing. In Italy - the return of the extended weekend.- In Moscow, off with heavy winter boots and on with waterproof galoshes.*

*Said a West German newspaper for "civil servants" - "on this day their winter sleep ends - and their spring sickness, indolence begins."*



## WOUNDED KNEE

*A Federal grand jury in South Dakota today indicted an additional twenty-three persons - in connection with, quote, "crimes at Wounded Knee." The new indictments raising to fifty-four - the persons so charged. The names as yet undisclosed. The militant Indians and the Federal negotiators remain at logger heads.*

WHITE HOUSE

~~The White House~~ President Nixon ~~met~~

today, <sup>greeted the</sup> ~~with a~~ visiting womens gymnastic~~s~~ team from the Soviet Union. The President telling his guests "I watched the Olympics on television - and I noticed you all had the greatest ability to land on your feet." Adding: It's appropriate that you should come to Washington - because all politicians try to land on their feet; sometimes -- not successfully.

## ASHEVILLE

*A rather bizarre story comes from Asheville, North Carolina, where a wealthy thirty-seven year old Chicago art student - is accused of buying a twelve year old "bride". The girl's price tag - set by her parents at thirty thousand bucks.*

*The marriage however has been somewhat delayed. The art student running afoul of Asheville police while heading for a justice--of-the-peace in South Carolina. He now faces a charge - of felonious conspiracy. The girl's parents - in suburban Chicago also are charged with conspiracy and abandonment.*

*The money? It went for a new car - some bills, and new furniture for their forty thousand dollar home. By the time police caught up with them - a matter of forty-eight hours - the couple had disposed of all but two hundred bucks.*

ORNATHOLOGIST MURPHY

Still another of the giants of our era has departed from the scene. Tall handsome Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy -long associated with the American Museum of Natural History, has died at age eighty-five. He was one of the most beloved and admired ornathologists and explorers of our era. It would take a full hour to tell of his achievements, ~~and~~ added one million bird specimens to the American Museum collection. I wish there were time to tell about journeys to distant parts of the planet. Mountains in the Antarctic were named for him, also a bird, a fish, a spider, a lizard and a louse. The latter was a louse that lived on that large bird the Albatross. Its ornathological name *Eurymetopus murphyi*. Dr. Murphy was a gifted raconteur and about that tiny creature named for him <sup>Bill,</sup> he said: "As a scientist I'd as soon have a louse named for me as a mountain."



## HOPE

*At Hope, Arkansas - hope springs eternal.*

*Hope's most distinguished citizen one Henry Criner - celebrating his one hundred and seventh birthday; at the same time - hoping for maybe "six or seven more years - or maybe ~~six~~ eight or nine - or ten." The venerable Mr. Criner saying: "It's kinda fun - being the oldest guy around."*

*Next - the usual question. To what does he owe his longevity? The birthday boy saying: "I worked hard all my life - day and night - sometimes eight days a week - hard work never hurt anybody." "Looking at me" - he added - "you might even say it helped a mite."*

*Hold everything - Here's another: -*



NEW YORK

From New York City <sup>comes word of</sup> ~~an announcement today~~

~~proclaiming~~ the discovery - of "the smallest man in the world" his name -- Mihaly Mezaros, age thirty-five; said to have been found and signed to a contract at Budapest, Hungary. Now scheduled to appear with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey's circus opening again in New York next week. Mihaly Mezaros - we are told only thirty-three inches tall. ~~That's~~ Two inches shorter than even the legendary Tom Thumb. ~~If true~~   
 ~~Smaller even than a pygmy,~~  
 ~~truly, the smallest man in the world.~~

and a-l-u-t-m