

PARIS

Fri. Nov. 29-'68.

On the peace front - Paris - another exercise in polemics, ~~today~~. With officials of the Viet Cong rejecting as "insolent" a U S demand to stop the ~~for~~ fighting in Vietnam. Adding that they will ~~annote~~ ignore the presence of Saigon representatives - if and when those expanded peace talks ever do get under way.

At the same time - in Washington, also in ~~the~~ Saigon - U S and South Vietnamese officials were talking about a possible cease fire during the Christmas season. ~~at least~~. South Vietnamese Premier Tran Van Huong asserting: "For humanitarian reasons - we may announce the <sup>24 hour</sup> usual cease-fire. - ~~twenty four hours.~~"  
But he added - "we cannot forget the lessons of TET."

## SPACE

Turning to space - there's a growing speculation tonight that Russia will ~~soon~~ attempt its first manned "ring around the moon" ~~perhaps~~ within the next few days. The Soviets themselves - spurring the speculation <sup>by</sup> launching ~~an~~ an unmanned Sputnik ~~A~~ into Earth orbit, <sup>with the</sup> ~~today, also in a later~~ commentary ~~observing~~ that "automatic space probes always precede manned flights." Adding: "The space route<sup>s</sup> from Earth to Moon to Earth - have been opened."

Meanwhile, at Cape Kennedy - the work continues apace on Apollo ~~Eight~~ ~~Eight~~. Russians or no - the U S still shooting for our own circum-lunar flight - on or around Christmas.

NEW YORK FOLLOW JERUSALEM

~~Here at home - a related development,~~

48  
~~with~~ Richard Nixon designating <sup>as</sup> ~~the~~ former Governor Scranton of Pennsylvania - to serve as his pre-inaugural "eyes and ears" in the Middle East. An assignment that begins in earnest with the start of a nine day fact-finding tour.

Scranton's schedule to include meetings with the heads of state - of Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, also Israel. The President Elect urging one and all to give Scranton - "a full and frank exposition of views." Recognizing of course, the Middle East will be one of his most pressing problems - when he assumes office January Twentieth.

<sup>This to be</sup>  
~~By the way this~~ the second major foreign policy mission for Bill Scranton in recent weeks. ~~and~~ for a man who has vowed ~~to~~ never again <sup>to</sup> serve in public office - he sure gets around.

SYDNEY

About that Brush fire in Australia, ~~a bad news reports~~  
~~were~~ ~~telling today~~ of a blazing inferno ~~stretching~~ <sup>all the way</sup> from the  
suburbs of ~~that city~~ <sup>Sydney</sup> all the way to the Blue Mountains,  
<sup>some</sup> forty miles <sup>of flames.</sup> Before it was brought under control  
~~hopefully~~ the blaze charring an estimated two  
hundred and thirty square miles; ~~with a dense cloud~~  
~~of black smoke -- casting a deadly pall over the entire~~  
~~area.~~

~~As for casualties - first Reports indicate~~

49  
at least five dead - ~~about~~ a dozen missing; ~~with~~ <sup>and</sup> hundreds  
~~more~~ left homeless. This in the midst of <sup>Australian</sup> ~~the~~ worst  
drought ~~in Australia~~ - since Eighteen Eighty-Eight.

BUENOS AIRES

Like old man river - Max Conrad "just keeps rolling". The famed "flying grandfather" taking off from Rio de Janeiro early today. Landing in Buenos Aires about six hours later - where he is probably enjoying <sup>one of those</sup> ~~a thick~~ thick juicy <sup>Argentine</sup> steaks about now.

Tomorrow - he <sup>is</sup> off again, heading South for the <sup>cold ice desert</sup> ~~barren wastes~~ of Antarctica, <sup>perhaps the most</sup> ~~last great hurdle~~ important leg of his polar ~~in his daring attempt to fly~~ solo round the world, ~~by way of both poles.~~

KATHMANDU FOLLOW BUENOS AIRES

From the bottom of the world - antarctica  
to the Roof of the World - the Himalayas - just a short  
hop by dateline, at least, which brings us to this next -  
from Kathmandu, ~~in~~ Nepal.

It's a progress report - radioed back by  
Doctor ~~of~~ Duane Ewers of Los Angeles, California; leader  
of the first mountain climbing team permitted in Nepal  
-- in ~~the past~~ four years. The seventeen man expedition  
said to have ~~conquered~~ climbed seven mountains ~~so~~  
~~far~~ - in the Sanja Range of the Nepalese Himalayas.  
The tallest of the newly conquered peaks - reportedly  
~~soaring~~ some nineteen thousand feet above sea level.

~~As for full date details it seems we will have  
to wait until they get back.~~

TEXAS WHITE HOUSE

Here's one - a real shocker; economy in government - even above and beyond the call of duty. The Texas White House announcing today - a wholesale payroll cut back in the executive branch of government; a cutback amounting to some twenty-five thousand full time employees - during the quarter <sup>that</sup> ended September Thirty.

This in line with a payroll slash ordered by Congress - when it approved ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> ten percent surtax earlier this year. ~~However,~~ The figure topping by a full thirty-seven hundred - the number of layoffs ~~demanded~~<sup>demanding</sup> by the lawmakers. The White House further reporting ~~an~~ an additional reduction of one thousand employees - during the month of October. ~~Where for~~ ~~years they've been been~~ ~~telling~~ ~~us~~ ~~couldn't~~ ~~be~~ ~~done.~~

MEXICO CITY

From Mexico City - the story today of one Victor Molina; ~~who~~ who tried to steal a car the hard way - by pushing it. Needless ~~to say~~ to say, he didn't get very far. Police seizing the culprit - hauling him off to the hoosegow. There demanding; <sup>Warren,</sup> "Why should anyone try to steal a car by pushing it?"

"It's simple" said Senor Molina - "I don't know how to drive."