

Thursday, November 30, 1972

WHITE HOUSE

In the quest for peace in Southeast Asia - the main focus was still on the White House today. President Nixon meeting with his Joint Chiefs of Staff - to review "the entire situation in South Vietnam:" And then, he met a second time - with Nguyen Phu Duc, special emissary from South Vietnam's President Thieu.

The President later flying to Key Biscayne for the weekend. Henry Kissinger also will be there - for further talks - before returning to Paris this Sunday.

PARIS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile, at the pace table in Paris - the Communist side is contending that peace negotiations are deadlocked. But William Porter for the U.S. - expresses a somewhat different view. Saying: "Those who know right now aren't talking - and those who are talking don't know."

Porter also observed that "some news dispatches" - have contained of late "an unwarranted amount of pessimism." And he told newsmen: "I would caution you to take care - lest you be caught with your pens down."

LAIRD FOLLOW PARIS

U.S. troop strength in Vietnam - now less than twenty-seven thousand men. So announced today - by Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~ Laird; who ~~said~~⁴⁴ this more than meets - the President's December One withdrawal timetable.

Laird also ~~said that~~ he ~~was recommending - that~~
~~there be~~ no public announcements of future withdrawals. Such announcements "would be a mistake" - said he - "and might interfere with peace negotiations."

SAIGON

From Saigon comes news of another milestone - in the Vietnam war. The U.S. Command reporting today - there were no American servicemen deaths last week in Indochina. None from combat - none from accidental causes. The first such achievement - since early 'Sixty-Five.

ROGERS

The White House again - an announcement today that William Rogers is staying on as Secretary of State. He thus becomes the first of the President's first-term Cabinet - to be publicly assured that he will be held over in the second term.

For what it's worth though - Rogers is getting a whole batch of new assistants. As Number Two man - Department; Kenneth Rush - who moves over from the Defense Department, as Undersecretary for Political Affairs - Paris peace negotiator William Porter; as Undersecretary for Economic Affairs - William Casey, up to now the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the countdown begins. The men of Apollo-Seventeen - cranking up today for America's last and toughest assault on the moon. Astronauts Gene Cernan, Ron Evans and Jack Schmitt - primed and ready. Their ground crews - hard at work. And the big event - now just six days away.

ATLANTA

The Baptist Towers at Atlanta, Georgia - an eleven-story, ultra-modern home for the aged; normally, the height of retirement comfort - but early today the scene of "a horrible nightmare" of fire. The blaze killing nine - and injuring some thirty more. Second such fire disaster in the South - in less than twenty-four hours.

In the Indian House of Parliament at New Delhi - two days of heated debate on the future of Indian foreign policy; ending up with a formal statement - from Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh. "I can assure the House" - said he - "that we shall do everything on our part - to normalize relations with the United States." Singh adding: "We have much in common - we have no basic conflict; there is no reason why our relations should not only be normalized - but also become friendly."

Singh also announced that India is now willing to resume cultural and trade relations - with Red China as well. "It is our firm belief" - said he - that India and China can and must normalize their relations - on the basis of peaceful coexistence."

RACE

This next - a report today from a special military
and civilian ~~task force~~ ^{panel} - on racial matters in the armed
forces. ~~It's members~~ ^{It's members} ~~task force~~ urging adoption of a number of new rules
and regulations - to meet the demands of blacks. Among
them, one - that "job assignments be based on aptitude" -
rather than written tests; two - that "persons be assigned
to low-status of less desirable jobs - only on a volunteer
or short-term rotating basis;" and three - that uniform caps
should be redesigned - so that they can be worn more
easily with so-called "Afro" hairdos.

In a covering letter, the panel also said that
"racial discrimination in the military system - is not
specifically a Negro, Mexican-American, Puerto Rican or
white problem; rather it is problem - of society" in general.

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul versus reckless driving. This in remarks addressed to a delegation - from the Italian Automobile Club. The Pope lauding the Club's efforts - to promote greater traffic safety; then going on to say he "deplored" drivers who jeopardize life - through "open defiance of the laws, daredevilry and moral and psychological immaturity."

The Pope also saying: "This is a grave moral problem." Adding that driving, like everything else, must be "subject to the precise standards - of God's law and of moral conscience."

SAN DIEGO

San Diego - a meeting of leading Japanese and American newspaper editors; twenty-five, in all - hearing from Assistant Secretary of State John Richardson; who noted that American newspapers - tend to ignore Japan; while Japanese newspapers - just the opposite - said he; except that they "pay too much attention - to our warts and blemishes." Richardson expressed confidence, however - that the imbalance is being adjusted."

CASPER

When it was first admitted to the Union and ever since - Wyoming has called itself "the equality state." Ah, but there's equality - and then there's equality. Wyoming ~~now~~ ~~has~~ becoming the latest state - to spawn an anti-women's lib organization; namely - "Women for Maintaining the Differences Between the Sexes and Against the Equal Rights Amendment."

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Serving as Chairman of the new group - Mrs. Joanne Holbrook of Casper, Wyoming; who says that she and her sisters - hope to enlist as many as fifteen thousand supporters by the end of the year; thereby inducing state legislators to vote "no" - when the equal rights amendment comes up for ratification.

Bill,
Mrs. Holbrook further asserts that the great majority of women - would like to continue the protection they already have. Adding, what's more, that this is one time - when said women have to speak for themselves. Why? Because - said she - "when men say anything about it -

LONDON

From the British Home Office - a report today said to show that Britain is fast becoming another "affluent society." The figures disclosing that over the past decade - family income in Britain has nearly doubled - vacations have gotten longer - infectious disease has dropped sharply - children have been staying in school longer - and more people have more money to spend on recreation than ever before.

That's the good news. Now the bad. During the same period - we are told - crimes of violence have more than doubled - abortions, the same; while the British divorce rate - jumping more than five hundred per cent. And so it goes - in "the good life," British-style.