

Thursday, January 16, 1975
Reid Collins

From Washington.....

From the Kremlin.....

*From Detroit comes today's news. Good evening,
everybody. This is Lowell Thomas.*

*The U.S. Gross National Product - down last
year by Two-point-Two per cent; the first decline in the
GNP - since Nineteen-Seventy; and more than that, the
biggest fall-off - since the end of World War Two.*

*This - according to government economists,
who add: "The breadth of the decline and other evidence
suggest that further adjustments - are now underway; and
real output may decline again - in the current quarter."*

CAPITOL HILL

In the House - Democratic liberals were carrying on today - with what amounts to a quiet revolution; along the way, deposing two more veteran committee chairmen - F. Edward Hebert of Armed Services and W.R. Poage of Agriculture.

CAUCUS

The full caucus declined to go along with the steering committee recommendations of yesterday, however, that Wright Patman be dropped as banking chairman and Wayne Hays be ousted as administrative chairman.

Patman still faces a challenge from the steering committee's choice, Henry Ruess of Wisconsin.

WHITE HOUSE

President Ford met today with Congressional leaders - in an effort to blunt some of the criticism of his new economic program. The Democrats who were there reportedly telling the President - "they thought there would be some modifications." Just what - we'll have to wait and see. But the President was given assurances - we hear - that Congress will meet his April One deadline - for a one-time income tax rebate.

SOVIET UNION

CBS News has learned that Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Obrynin has been summoned back to Moscow next week for a review of policy including the policy of detente. How deep a review is involved isn't known.

KREMLIN

Earlier today the Kremlin said it is still committed to a policy of detente. This in the form of commentary - carried by the official Soviet news agency Tass; in effect, a follow-up to Soviet rejection - of that new U.S. trade bill. The Kremlin saying: "The Soviet Union continues to come out for international detente" - and for "making it moreover irreversible."

The Kremlin also saying it "continues to seek mutually beneficial trade with the West" - and especially with "the most economically powerful Western nation - the U.S.A.; but only on a basis of full equality - and mutual benefit."

BREZHNEV

Moscow again - a renewal of the question - of "whatever happened to Leonid Brezhnev?" The Soviet leader failing to meet with visiting Australian Premier Gough Whitlam; the only member of the Soviet hierarchy - who failed to see the visitor; and this after Whitlam had said publicly - he wished to see Brezhnev.

CAIRO

Egypt's President Sadat was again demanding today - further Israel; withdrawals from occupied Arab territory; but this time - he also set a deadline. Sadat saying: "I will accept nothing less than an Israeli move on the three fronts - within three months." If not - he continued - "we," meaning the Arabs, "will then go to Geneva - all of us, including the Palestinians - and explode everything there."

WASHINGTON

Sadat's statement - quickly relayed to Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who is now conferring with U.S. officials in Washington. Allon saying: "If you take what they say literally, it's not too good - but I hope it isn't the last word."

Sadat's remarks were continued in an interview in a Beirut newspaper, leading to speculation they were more for domestic consumption than a definitive statement of policy.

HELMS

Former CIA Director Richard Helms today issued his first comprehensive statement - on the agency's involvement in domestic spying. Helms saying the CIA was forced to enter the picture - because of a "sudden and quite dramatic upsurge of extreme radicalism, in this country and abroad," in the late 'Fifties and early 'Sixties.

"By and in itself" - he went on - "this violence, this dissent, this radicalism - was of no direct concern to the CIA. It became so only in the degree that the trouble was inspired by, coordinated with, or funded by - anti-American subversion mechanisms abroad."

Helms also said he was "indignant at the irresponsible attacks" - recently leveled against the CIA. Adding that these attacks, if allowed "to pass unchallenged - could seriously damage U.S. interests."

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma's recent Governor David Hall has been indicted by a Federal grand jury on charges of soliciting a bribe.

Hall, a democrat whose term expired Monday, is charged with seeking a Fifty Thousand Dollar bribe to influence the investment of state retirement funds. Indicted with him are two Texans, officials of an investors' corporation.

OIL

The oil workers union has reached agreement with Amoco and Texaco but it threatens to strike four major refiners unless they settle by noon tomorrow. The oil workers are getting settlements amounting to wage increases of about twenty-six per cent over two years.

COSMONAUTS

The Soviet newspaper Izvestia says the two cosmonauts aboard Salyut Four Space station are not adjusting to their weightless state as quickly as hoped.

Alexei Gubarev and Gerogy Grechko are each forty-three years old.

In a telecast to earth they commented that the work load was pretty heavy and the mission wasn't a walk by any means. They were launched last Saturday. Izvestia says it's possible that the adjustment could take as long as twelve days.