

BENGHAZI

Here's big news, a major merger in the Middle East. Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Libya's Colonel Moammar Khadafy upon completing three days of talks at Tobruk and Benghazi announced plans to form a "full union" between their two countries - as soon as possible; with a number of joint committees - to begin working out the details immediately.

This an attempt to create the biggest and most populace state - in all the Middle East; also one of the richest - with Libya now ranking fourth-in-the-world in oil production. Libya's Khadafy is further quoted as saying the merger is essential - if the Arabs are ever to recover the occupied lands from Israel.

This new nation - if it does become one, will be the largest in Africa.

This next - perhaps best filed under the heading: "Better Late Than Never." ~~At any rate,~~ The Senate Democratic leader and the Senate Republican leader ^{today were} both praising ~~him~~ ex-Vice Presidential hopeful Thomas Eagleton.

Said Mike Mansfield: "He was a dedicated and able Senator - when he entered this pressure chamber a week ago." ^{Then adding:-} "he emerged from it as a Senator who towers in courage, strength, sensitivity and wit." ^{Republican Sen.} Said [^] Hugh Scott: "His courage and integrity - will do him ~~a~~ vast credit."

Meanwhile, George McGovern was taking his ~~good old~~ time + about picking a new running mate.

The Democratic Presidential nominee saying today -

he is still "giving careful thought to a number of

possibilities." ^{Said he,} ~~Adding,~~ as yet "I haven't offered it to anybody."

DOLE FOLLOW MC GOVERN

Reverse side - Senator Dole was discussing plans today - for the coming Republican Convention.

Noting the Republican nominees *^* have already been chosen ^{he said} ~~Adding dryly that~~ he hopes the Democrats - will have picked their slate by then.

The Republican National Chairman ^{is} also pledging an interesting Convention *^* despite the lack of suspense. "I guess you could say" - said he - "ours will be a prime time convention." "Completely open" - he went on; ^{That is,} ~~^~~ with any disputes - to be hashed out on the floor of the Convention. And ~~the~~ - said he - "at a time when every TV viewer can conveniently watch it, if he wants - not just the insomniacs."

From the White House - again "no comment"

today on that attempt to bug Democratic National

Headquarters. But a spokesman ^{did} ~~add~~ that President

Nixon has instructed members of his staff - to cooperate

fully in any official investigation. And this ^{is} ~~is~~ said to

apply equally - to the President's re-election committee.

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"The President's view" we are told - "is that all those

who are asked to cooperate should cooperate."

The White House again - President Nixon

met ~~me~~ today with Arthur Flemming, ~~the~~ chairman of the White H_ouse conference on aging. The President later announcing the start of a program to contact the hungry among the aged ~~H~~ who may not realize they are eligible for Federal food programs. Said the President: "The thought that any older citizen - after a lifetime of service to his community and country - may suffer from hunger or malnutrition - is intolerable!"

NADER

Elsewhere in Washington - Ralph Nader was off on another tack today. The consumer crusader - addressing a meeting of the League of Women Voters - urged that voting in national elections be made mandatory.

Said Nader: Voting is already mandatory in Australia; with voting percentages there running around ninety-two percent.

4
In the continuing trial of Arthur Bremer at Upper Marlboro, Maryland - the defendent was called today a classic "shut-in personality". This according to the first defense witness - Dr. Eugene Brody, the chairman of the psychiatry department at the University of Maryland medical school; who added that Bremer decided about March 1 - to assassinate either President Nixon or Governor Wallace; and then spent the next two and a half months criss-crossing the country in pursuit of his goal.

Bremer was also quoted as fantasizing - about "being a big-shot." Explaining: "perhaps it's because I'm so small." Dr. Brody saying he then asked the defendent - if he was referring to his stature. ~~But~~ Bremer replying ~~said he:~~ "No - my future is small; and my past - an insult to any human being."

From Bangui in the Central African

*Republic - which used to be French Equatorial Africa -
a lesson today in law and order, =black African style.*

*President Jean Bokassa sending a detachment of
army troops - into the local Bangui prison. The*

*troops there beating with wooden staves - some forty
convicted thieves; three of whom ~~were~~^{they} ~~actually~~ killed.-*

*~~with~~ Their corpses and all the ~~injured~~ injured then placed
on public display in Central Bangui - under a blazing
sun - for five hours.*

*The President also saying he plans to make
such beatings a regular weekly event. ~~Declaring~~^{Said the Bangui}*

President!-

"thieves must all die." Adding: "There will be no

more theft - in the Central African Republic."

BIG SUR

In the rugged Big Sur country of California - a raging forest fire today; blazing its way through three thousand acres of woodland - including a number of ancient redwoods; with an army of more than a thousand men - attempting to stem the fire's advance; but getting virtually nowhere - at last report.

A spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service saying: "It's going to get quite a bit larger before it's contained." And it all started - we hear ^{Warren} - from an illegal campfire.

BOSTON

Sad but true - a story reported today from Boston; where three teen-agers - appeared at the rectory of St. Mary's-of-the-Angels Church; telling the Rev. Father William Mullin - they wanted to talk about religion; so he said - Okay.

What happened next - well, let Father Mullin tell it: "We talked for about ten minutes" - said he - "they seemed really sincere - one of them especially seemed to know what he was talking about - and then he pulled out a pistol."

The trio of young bandits - escaping with a hundred and twenty bucks. With Father Mullin later heard to remark: "I really feel sorta betrayed."