

Fri. Dec 8-72.

KANSAS CITY

At Kansas City - Harry Truman was still battling for his life today. The former President's condition - listed as "critical," the same as before. Doctors adding, however - his condition has actually worsened somewhat. They also say his "cardiac situation - is extremely precarious."

SPACE

Why up there in space - the men of Apollo-Seventeen fired the main rocket engine for the first time today; a brief thrust - altering slightly the course of their spaceship America; thereby, ensuring - proper lunar orbit. A-O.K. - all the way. Indeed, Command Pilot Ron Evans - letting out with a joyous whoop. Saying: "Ho, ho, ho - there we go."

Earlier, astronaut-scientist Jack Schmitt - was attempting to work up a good sweat in the weightlessness of space. Finally doing it - by running in place while bracing himself on a cabin strut. As a form of space exercise - just great, it seems, except for one thing. Mission Commander Gene Cernan reporting that Schmitt's exertion - had been "shaking all of America."

CHICAGO

Chicago - the crash of a Boeing Seven-Thirty-Seven - en route from Washington. The plane going down - on Chicago's heavily-populated southwest side. First reports - indicating perhaps as many as fifty dead.

ADDIS ABABA

En route from Addis Ababa to Cairo today - the bloodiest attempted skyjacking to date. A team five men and two women terrorists - attempting to take over an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing Seven-Twenty. But they failed to reckon with security guards - and the plane's passengers. The latter jumping the would-be skyjackers - enabling the guards to open fire. All seven of the terrorists - shot dead.

Dr. Roderick Hilsinger, a professor at Temple University in Philadelphia - one of those who played a key role in the battle. Grabbing a hand grenade tossed by the terrorists - and flinging it to the rear of the plane. He was gravely injured though - also, a second American identified as S.V. McCollum of the Tenneco Oil Company, Houston, Texas.

PARIS

The quest for peace at Paris - was marked today by talks between Henry Kissinger and France's President Pompidou; after which - Dr. Kissinger again conferred with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.

Results, if any - not disclosed. However, a Communist spokesman saying: "We have no new moves to announce - the decision now is in the American camp."

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

More encouraging perhaps - the latest casualty report from Saigon; showing for the second week in a row - no Americans deaths in Vietnam. None from combat - none from accidents, illness or other non-hostile causes.

The air war continues unabated though. U.S. B-Fifty-Twos blasting away today - at enemy positions just above the DMZ; attempting to head off a massive flow of supplies - still heading South.

CAMP DAVID

From his home-away-from home at Camp David - President Nixon today completed his second-term Cabinet; as expected - announcing the retention of Richard Kleindienst as Attorney General.

But the rest of the Justice Department - due for a shake-up. The President disclosing that five of Kleindienst's chief lieutenants - will soon be heading elsewhere. A move clearly aimed at making the Justice Department - more responsive to White House policy.

SHARING

One of the President's fondest dreams - at last, a reality. The Federal government mailing out today - its first revenue-sharing checks; for more than Two-and-a-Half Billion - in all; money that's now headed - for some thirty-nine thousand state and local governments.

Number One on the list: New York City - which gets more than a Hundred Million; nearly half-again as much - as the whole State of Alabama. At the opposite end: Scores of small villages - getting the minimum, just Two Hundred Bucks. Not much perhaps - but still a welcome contribution.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The U. S. unemployment rate - down sharply last month; from five-point-five to five-point-two per cent - the lowest figure in more than two years; which indicates - we are told - "a strong improvement" in the nation's economy.

This according to Herbert Stein, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers - who adds:

"There will, of course be ups and downs in the monthly figures - but we have every expectation that the strong economic expansion now underway will continue in the period ahead; and will bring with it - further rise of employment and decline of unemployment."

TEL AVIV

In the Middle East - Israeli police today disclosed the arrest of twenty alleged spies; sixteen of them - Israeli Arabs; the other four - left-wing Israeli Jews. All - accused of passing information to Damascus; also, accused of planning acts of sabotage in the Holy Land - as a means of disrupting the Christmas tourist season. Israeli officials adding that more arrests - can be expected.

NEW YORK CITY

Here in New York City - a story of Life and death.
Time, Incorporated, announcing today - the death of Life
Magazine; giving as the reason - continuing heavy losses.

Life's pattern - originally set by the late Henry
Luce back in Nineteen-Thirty-Six, before it even had a name.
Its purpose - said Henry Luce: "To see life - to see the
world - to see and take pleasure in seeing - to see and be
amazed."

It was a creed that soon made the new magazine -
Number One in the field of photo-journalism. As recently
as Nineteen-Sixty-Six - Life's ad revenues totaling nearly
One Hundred and Seventy Million. But ever since - it's been
all downhill; and now - like its once-major competitor,
Look, Life is closing its doors.

In the ~~field of~~ publishing^{field,} where it's always dog-eat-
dog - well, that's life.

CARDS

This next - just in time for Christmas. The National Association of Greeting Card Publishers - moving to new offices in New York. In the process - turning up a rare find; a box containing a collection of personalized Christmas cards - from old-time movie stars.

For example, a card from film cowboy Tom Mix - with a verse that says: "May your stack of cards grow taller - may your shooting e'er stay true - may good luck snow you under - is always my wish for you." Another - from Clara Bow and Rex Bell; not only a Christmas greeting - but also announcing the birth of "a new star, Rex Larbow Bell."

Still another, on the outside, bearing a sketch of Mae West - entwined in the arms of Santa Claus; while inside - a personal message from the curvy star saying: "If Santa Claus fails to reach your house - just bear it with a grin; I wrote and said, 'Come up some time' - and the dear old guy moved in!"

NORTH READING

At North Reading, Mass. - a sudden gall bladder attack; with a five-year-old by the name of Stoney - ending up in emergency surgery. Operation - a complete success.

But a few days later - Stoney's guardian, one Thomas Culleton, coming to pick him up. Whereupon he was handed a bill - for Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Bucks. "I won't pay it" - said he. "Then you don't get Stoney" - he was told.

Thus - a seeming impasse; except that Culleton's eight-year-old son - finally getting his Dad to give in a little. The bill was then cut back - and Stoney was soon home again.

Thomas Culleton telling reporters: "I'm very happy. But I still can't ^{figure it out"} - said he. - "Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Bucks? [?] for a gall bladder operation? [?] for a dog?"