

LOS ANGELES

Tues, Jan. 7-'69. ✓

~~FR~~ Los Angeles, - The trial begins. Sirhan

~~FR~~ Sirhan - facing the bar of justice, at last. Accused of murder -- in the slaying seven months ago of Senator Robert Kennedy of New York.

For the first time - Sirhan apparently cognizant of the gravity of the charge against him.

There wa<sup>s</sup> no turning and smiling at his family - ~~as~~ <sup>at his</sup> ~~as~~ previous court appearances. The defendant

paying strict attention as his lawyers began the fight

of his life. The ~~start~~ battle starting with a pair of

defense motions: ~~One~~ calling for separate ~~jury~~ juries

to determine the verdict and then if guilty, the penalty

-- another calling for another additional delay of

thirty days. Both - refused. The same with a later

request -- for written interrogation of prospective jurors.

The case finally adjourned until tomorrow - when

arguments will continue on a motion to quash the indictment entirely.

## BEIRUT

The government of Lebanon was plunged into crisis today - with the <sup>offered</sup> resignation of Premier Abdullah

Yafi; target of a storm of protest - in the wake of that

Israeli commando raid on Beirut Airport. <sup>Before his concession</sup> ~~Before his concession~~

though - Yafi endorsing a new military conscription bill;

also, praising France - for slapping an armed embargo

on Israel.

Meanwhile, Jordanian and Israeli forces were trading gunfire today - across the Jordan River cease-fire-line. An action resulting in destruction of the nearby Damryah Bridge - one of the last three river crossings between Jordan and Israel. It was the Jordanians who blew it up - apparently an attempt to deny the Israelis easy access to Jordanian territory.

War news from Viet Nam tells today of sporadic ground action - in the Mekong Delta - also near Saigon.

<sup>This</sup>  
Coupled with a series of American air strikes against enemy targets - in the Delta, along the Cambodian border, in the Central Highlands. While in Paris - U. S. and North Vietnamese peace negotiators - were still arguing about the <sup>design of that</sup> ~~scope of a~~ conference table.

Incidentally, today's peace parley <sup>was</sup> held in the South Vietnamese delegation residence in Paris, <sup>and was the</sup> ~~target~~ of a bomb scare - earlier in the day. However, a search of the premises - turned up nothing.

MOSCOW

*After two months of comparative grace - the new President-elect gets his baptism under Soviet fire. Richard Nixon - the target of a blast today from the Kremlin; charging that the 'new American administration - from its very first step - is working up tension in Europe. This - according to Soviets - because the U. S. will open war games in West Germany on January 20 - the day Nixon is inaugurated.*

*Ironically - <sup>Mr.</sup> Nixon had nothing to do with scheduling the exercise; a fact with which the Kremlin - is obviously aware. However, Kremlinologists were observing that this may be precisely the reason the Kremlin has chosen this issue for its first major criticism of the President-elect. Breaking him in easy - so to speak.*

*Here at home - the new administration begins to "crank up" for the big job ahead. Nixon headquarters in New York - announcing plans for a series of cabinet meetings Friday and Saturday of this week. With the main order of business - consideration of a number task force reports on a wide range of domestic problems.*

*Nixon's press aid - Ron Ziegler - calling this "part of the input process" for shaping the incoming government. From which will come - said he - the basis for much of the new Nixon legislative program.*

ROME

The governing council of the World Jewish

*was*  
Congress  $\lambda$  in annual session today at Rome. There voting  
to work for closer cooperation with the Vatican - also *with*  
the World Council of Churches. *This* Part of a world-wide  
effort, - to strengthen ties between Jews and Christians  
of every denomination. A spokesman for the Congress  
explaining that: "Catholics and Protestants are becoming  
increasingly aware - that Jews are more than people of  
a specific religion."

NEW YORK

*decides to call*

New York - Scott Carpenter ~~calls~~ it a career.

The famed astronaut turned aquanaut - announcing today

his planned retirement from the U.S. Navy. Reason:

Recent discovery of a number of infarcts - or dead

spots - in the lower portions of both <sup>of</sup> his thigh bones.

A relatively common ailment among deep-sea divers - which

Carpenter apparently picked up during the pioneering Navy

Sealab project.

At that - he was lucky. Had the infarcts affected

his joints - they could have crippled him. As it is - Scott

*to stop diving after the up-coming Sea Lab 3 project*  
Carpenter, ~~giving up his career as a diver~~; vowing nevertheless

~~to continue~~ *to continue* as a civilian his exploration of the ocean depths

- by a alternate means - subs, diving bells and so on.

Sex - and the doctor. The story today - from Michigan State University: Site of a forum this week entitled - "Sexuality: A Search for Prospective."

With Dr. Selig Neubardt of New York - one of the first on the program. Asserting that where sexual problems are concerned - "a doctor is normally the first place

*says he that*  
people turn - and ~~it's~~ usually the worst place." Reason?

*He went on -*  
~~said he~~ "The average doctor isn't free enough - from his own hang-ups; "whatever that means,

*at this session -*  
Next *^* Professor James McCary of the University

of Houston, Decrying the fact that Americans are making themselves so nervous - about the so-called "sexual

revolution" - walking around - worrying about it - talking about it - ad infinitum. End result - said he: "A sex

overthrow," - whatever that is *it's beyond me. Maybe our old friend Gay Lord Avery will be able to elucidate.*



CAPE TOWN

"Uneventful - singularly free from pain and discomfort - a piece of cake." That's the way the world's longest surviving heart transplant patient - now describes his historic operation. Dr. Philip Blaiberg telling a television interviewer in Cape Town - it was really easier than a previous hernia operation. Adding that he later received "such wonderful letters" - telling what "a brave man" he was - he "actually felt a fraud."

Next question: Would he agree to still another transplant - if his present <sup>new</sup> heart began to give out?

~~The~~ Answer - no. "I've enjoyed life" - said Dr. Blaiberg.

"I'll be sixty next year - so what the hell - what do I want to live longer for!"

*Says he. While I say -*  
*s-l-u-t-mar -*