

BUDGET

President Nixon's proposed budget for fiscal seventy-two as presented today to Congress - in bold break with tradition - as you no doubt have heard by now. The President's full-employment budget - calling for total expenditures of more than two hundred and twenty nine billion; including a projected deficit - of more than eleven and a half billion. Mr. Nixon thus becoming the first Republican President in modern times - ever to give his official sanction to deficit spending.

As for congressional reaction - about what you might expect. Chairman George Mahon of the Powerful House Appropriations Committee - quick to challenge the President's concept. Said he: "The country is suffering principally from one malady - over indulgence; and the one remedy - he added - "self-restraint." House and Senate Republican leaders, though - were praising the President's plan; saying it was "clearly designed to help promote full employment - and peace-time prosperity."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the count-down continues; with the flight of Apollo Fourteen - now less than two days distant; and space officials report all is proceeding okay.

Meanwhile, the men of Apollo Fourteen- Astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa, and Ed Mitchell - were winding up their rehearsals in their space simulators. Coming up tomorrow - a brief respite; and then - the real thing.

VIETNAM

Vietnam - a new day has already begun; bringing with it - the end of the Communists' self-proclaimed four day lunar New Year cease fire; also, a Viet Cong charge that U.S. and South Vietnamese forces - "shamelessly" violated the TET truce. The Communist Radio citing some two hundred and eighty eight alleged incidents.

U.S. reaction? Those reports sheer poppy-cock. Indeed, the U.S. Command rating the just-ended truce - one of the quietest holiday periods in years. We are also told - in the first few hours following expiration of the truce - no major ground action.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House again - Rogers Morton

was sworn in today as the new U S Secretary of the Interior. President Nixon telling Morton: "The charge I give to you is not just conservation - the charge is restoration - restoration of the beauty of this country that has been so marred in recent years." And he added: "I want you to bring the parks to the people who cannot afford to travel to places like Yellowstone and Yosemite - so that they can know how beautiful this country is."

Later on, the President and ~~Norma~~ Mrs. Nixon flying to Caneel Bay in the Virgin Islands - there to spend a brief working holiday.

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - building again. Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq - all placing their armed forces on maximum alert today. Egypt also calling up - a few reservists. At the same time, Cairo warning that the present mid-East truce will not be extended - unless U N peace talks show "some positive progress."

Israeli Chief of Staff General Haim Bar-Lev told his men that truce extension or no - "the conflict between the Arabs and Israelis has not been solved."

QUELIMANE

A major storm disaster - reported today from Mozambique in Portuguese East Africa. This starting with a cyclone - that hit shore near coastal town; followed by tidal waves said to have inundated palm trees as much as twenty five feet high. First reports indicating - there may have been thousands killed. Later though, officials saying: bad but not that bad. It may be weeks - before we really know.

VATICAN

From the Vatican in Rome - an ecclesiastical census report today; showing that the number of Roman Catholics around the world - ~~at~~ increased by more than ten million last year; as of ~~January~~ January One, an estimated five-hundred-and-twenty-six million in all. At the same time, the number of Roman Catholic priests -- decreasing by nearly fifteen hundred. And therein, of course, lies one of the Church's great problems.

LOUISVILLE

For Hubert Humphrey - a trip today to Louisville; where he told Kentuckians he plans to reassess his position by year's end - with a possibility he may decide to run for President again. The former Vice President - who recently resumed as a Senator from Minnesota -- saying he has no intention of "setting up any national organization". And he added: "I am not on any delegate hunt." But he also ~~was~~ said: "I am confident that Nineteen Seventy Three ~~will~~ will see a Democrat in the White House."

MUSKIE FOLLOW LOUISVILLE

More on the same - from Senator Muskie of Maine; who stressed today that he too, is undecided as yet whether to run for President; in part - said he - because ~~but~~ "two years is too long to campaign for any office;" and he added once more, it was "conceivable" - he might ~~but~~ decide not to be a candidate at all.

But then he went on from there - to sound just the opposite. Senator Muskie saying he is now in the process of building - a national political organization.

He also said he has the "inclination and the desire" ~~to~~ to speak out on a wide range of national issues; and fully intends - to do so. And if that isn't running - well, it isn't exactly standing still either.

MOUNT WASHINGTON

For those four mountain climbers stranded four days in the bitter cold atop Mt. Washington rescue at last today. With a search party finally spotting the group - near a survival hut where they had holed-up since Tuesday. This - in an area overlooking the mountain Lake of the Clouds. Rescuers reporting that the four - were all in excellent condition; ~~and~~ ~~they were~~ able to walk to the mountain summit station - ~~on~~ unassisted in the wake of temperatures that dropped

as low as thirty five below - and winds gusting over sending the chill factor temp to around $^{\circ}136$ below $^{\circ}F$. ninety miles an hour - ~~really, an incredible escape.~~

So, they were lucky. Mt. Washington in some respects ~~ways~~ is the most formidable mountain in this country - east or west, even tho' its altitude is only ~~some~~ 6288 feet. I remember ^{some} 40 yrs. ago when the highest wind velocities in the world were recorded on its stormy summit, Warren.

MOSCOW

On the fashion front - a delayed reaction in Moscow; with the Soviet press taking up the "mini-versus-maxie" battle - which has raged for more than a year here in the West. Case in point - an article appearing in the government newspaper Nedilye; quoting the views - of a number of Muskovites. One - a sixteen year old school girl, Natasha Natashavich who said: "It all depends on your legs - if you have maxie legs, you should wear mini skirts - if you have mini legs, maxie skirts." Smart girl that sixteen years old Muskovite Miss Natashavich.