

November 4, 1971
Allen Jackson

PRESIDENTIAL PAY BOARD

Good Evening. Reverberations on the economic front today. The House Banking committee - annoyed over the tough guidelines reportedly being worked out on pay increases by the Presidential Pay Board - voted to require retroactive payment - of wage increases denied during the current freeze. This - in turn - prompted a sharp reaction from the White House - President Nixon - issuing a statement denouncing the committee's action - saying it would provide for special treatment to one segment of the economy - and seriously jeopardize the whole anti-inflation program.

The White House emphasizes that the President is not prejudging - the issue - of whether deferred pay increases should be paid - but arguing - rather - that it is a decision for the Pay Board to make - not Congress.

ECONOMY

One note on prices - the U.S. wholesale price index - remained virtually stable over the past month. The White House says this is "pleasing." Adding that a rash cuts in prime bank rates - they were trimmed again today - "reflects positive market forces." At the same time, the Senate Finance Committee approving a tentative fifteen per cent surcharge on imports, in case of emergency.

AMCHITKA ISLAND

More reaction today - to the big nuclear blast on Amchitka Island that has not taken place yet. The White House acknowledged that it has received some calls and letters - protesting the explosion. It didn't say how many. On Capitol Hill - Senate Democratic leader called the administration's decision - to go ahead with the test - dangerous, an outrage.

Conservationists - went to the Supreme Court - asking it to at least delay the test - until a lower-court's refusal to bar it - can be appealed. Said the conservationists - the effect of that big blast on the environment - may be among the most significant in all man's history.

SENATE FOLLOW ECONOMY

The Senate Judiciary Committee continued its hearings - on President Nixon's two new choices for the U.S. Supreme Court. Richmond lawyer Lewis Powell - received the accolades of both his home state Senators - also, a bevy of top bar officials.

Then a return appearance - by William Rehnquist; bringing out the fact that it was he - as an assistant attorney general - who helped to develop the government's stand in defense of FBI wiretapping. Rehnquist later suggested an educational campaign - to convince people of the "extremely limited use" of wiretapping. But he added, if confirmed, "he would very probably be required to disqualify him" - in related cases.

PARIS

At the peace table in Paris - some tough talk today.

William Porter, for the U.S., telling the Communist side:

"Your various points now add up to thirty-seven - but there importance to date is zero - because you are not permitted to explain or defend them - and it is and will remain beyond your power to impose them."

[REDACTED]

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "PICARD"

*Next - Lowell Thomas; discussing tonight - water
pollution, Italian-style. Lowell...*

1:50

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "PICARD"

Thank you, Lowell.

A final story - after this.

LONDON

From London - a report today that Britain's Prince Philip - is giving up one of the loves of his life - polo. And not for reasons of economy - as he once suggested he might have to do; but rather - advancing age.

The Prince - age fifty, you see. Also subject to recurrent attacks of synovitis - a painful inflammation - concentrated in his right wrist. Coming to the conclusion - we are told - "he's past it." And so - Britain's Prince Philip - hanging up his mallet.

Now for Lowell Thomas - so long until tomorrow.