

CABINET

Tues. Nov. 28-72

President Nixon today named Health-Welfare Secretary Elliot Richardson of Massachusetts as Defense Secretary in the new cabinet - and at the same time - the President announced that Budget Director Caspar Weinberger of California will succeed Richardson in the Health-Welfare post. Roy L. Ash - president of Litton Industries - is the new Budget Director. Commenting, President Nixon said "The next four years will be very exciting times for this nation - both domestically and internationally" - adding that it was with confidence and pleasure that these three people would be working with him. Further cabinet appointments are due tomorrow.

VIETNAM

A radio Hanoi broadcast quotes Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai as "severely condemning" the United States for failing so far to agree to the Indo-China ceasefire agreement drafted last month by Henry Kissinger and the North Vietnamese. At the same time, the broadcast said Hanoi is now negotiating for extended military aid from both Peking and Moscow - a report verified from the Moscow end by a Tass statement.

In the war, American bombers - while flying support for South Vietnamese ground troops - unloaded five-hundred-pound bombs by mistake on a town south of Da Nang - killing at least nineteen civilians and wounding about thirty others.

In Washington, out-going Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said that NO men would be drafted into the armed forces during January and only about ten-thousand will be called up before the current Selective Service Act expires on June Thirtieth. Laird also expressed confidence the armed forces would attract enough volunteers ~~after the draft~~.

~~law expires~~ However, he adds, Congress may have to use a draft law to fill quotas in the National Guard and Reserves unless it approves a bonus bill aimed at attracting more volunteers.

ULSTER

The I-R-A launched a full-scale guerilla-type offensive in Northern Ireland today - bringing death and destruction to several communities. Bombs and Soviet-made anti-tank rockets were used against ten police stations and Army posts - killing a soldier, a policeman and two young I-R-A activists. The rockets are similar to those the Russians issued to the Viet Cong in Vietnam.

CRASH

A Japan Air Lines plane burst into flames today shortly after taking off from the Moscow airport and crashed in a snowstorm - killing at least sixty-three of the passengers and crew. Thirteen miraculously survived. The plane was beginning a trans-Siberian flight to Tokyo when a fire apparently broke out on board.

TRAIN

Amtrak passenger
Federal safety experts say the fatal ~~train~~ wreck last year near Effingham, Illinois, which killed eleven and injured one-hundred-sixty-three others, was caused by a locked locomotive wheel which slid for almost forty miles before jumping the track at ninety miles an hour. The Safety Board says a wheel warning indicator which could have prevented the crash, was inoperative at the time. The reason given was inadequate repair and testing procedures - and violation of Federal safety rules.

LOTTERY

More and more states are resorting to official lotteries as an apparently "painless" way to raise money without raising taxes. Many state officials too are trying to stave off taxpayer revolts against higher sales, property and income taxes. Only recently, the voters in Maryland approved a lottery there, bringing to eight the number of states which have climb^{ed} aboard the lottery bandwagon. In New Hampshire - first state in modern times to approve a lottery - half the take goes to the winners - the other half to the public school system. Since then, other lottery states include New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan and now Maryland. And at least a dozen other states are considering it. ^{For} New York State bingo has raked in a profit of about one-hundred-seventy-MILLION in its first five years.

DRUGS

The Consumers Union says marijuana is here to stay and should be legalized without ~~any~~ further ado - saying "it's much too late to debate the issue." In a lengthy report issued in Washington, the Union says also - "NO conceivable law enforcement program can curb the availability of marijuana." ^{It adds:-} "However, we do NOT recommend legalization because we believe marijuana is safe or harmless - but rather because it would end the psychic damage done to young people by their arrest, conviction and imprisonment for marijuana offenses."

In San Francisco, trained dope-sniffing dogs led agents to three-hundred-fifty ~~pounds of hashish~~ ^{pounds of hashish} ~~being~~ ^{being} smuggled into the airport. The canine noses discovered the shipment hidden inside twenty-five boxes of jewelry ~~hidden~~ from New Delhi.

And on the Left Bank in Paris, the gendarmes moved in to break up an international drug ring - seizing about

one-hundred-thirty-two pounds of pure heroin which - if sold on the streets here in the U S A - would have brought the pushers a cool twenty-six-MILLION dollars. Under arrest are five Frenchmen - a Uruguyan - and two Mexicans - one of whom is fifty-nine-year-old General Humberto Mariles Cortes - an internationally-known equestrian who won a gold medal at the Nineteen-Forty-Eight Olympic Games in London. Agents say those arrested formed an important link in a smuggling network extending from Marseille^S to the U S by way of Latin America. Now, does this mean that the French Connection has been disconnected? We wonder.

GUILLOTINE (folo drugs)

Also in Paris, two convicted murderers were executed today under France's Eighteenth Century guillotine^{law} - the first use of capital punishment in France in more than three years. The two men went to their deaths without outward signs of fear - both refusing the customary final glass of rum and a cigarette before mounting the guillotine's platform. ~~Two~~^A years ago while in prison, they seized two hostages - one a prison nurse - and killed both in the riot that followed.

SEYER

In Los Angeles, the German-born engineer who made ballpoint pens work is dead at the age of eighty-two. William F. Seyer - a former U-C-L-A professor - accomplished this feat after many users of ballpoint pens despaired of ever being able to write with them during the Nineteen-Forties when the pens were first introduced. Trouble was they contained a waxy type of ink that just wouldn't write. But Doctor Seyer came to the rescue - ^{BEI} developing a quick drying ballpoint ink that worked - and is still being used.

MONUMENT

Eighteen-year-old Jens Klokhoj - an exchange student from Denmark - had plenty of time to take in the view while he was stranded alone for more than two hours on top of the Washington Monument - after missing the last elevator down to the ground level. Unable to attract attention after two hours of shouting from the five-hundred-fifty-five-foot tall monument, Jens discovered a telephone cabinet and pried it open with a pocket knife. Then he began dialing numbers on a list - but nobody answered until, finally, he dialed the last number and a voice said - "May I help you?" It was probably the biggest understatement in the monument's history. Within ten minutes, police arrived and brought Jens down.

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