

Tuesday, January 15, 1974

NIXON

With the reconvening of Congress only a week away - President Nixon today completed work on a three hundred billion dollar Federal budget for Nineteen Seventy-five, highest in the nation's history. Along with a Presidential message, the budget goes to Congress within the next two weeks. As he finished work on the budget, the President received a solid vote of confidence from Vice President Gerald Ford in an address at Atlantic City. Referring to what he termed the "administration's magnificent achievements," Ford charged the A F L - C I O, the A D A; and, other activist groups with seeking "total defeat" of the President and his policies. Speaking before the Farm Bureau Federation, Vice President Ford further charged these groups with trying to turn the President impeachment issue to their own political advantage. "If they can crush the President and his philosophy," said the Vice President, they are convinced they can dominate the

Congress too, and through it, the nation."

Also today Senator Barry Goldwater charged that liberal Democrats are using Watergate for their own political advantage while creating an impeachment lobby to oust the President.

WATERGATE

In Washington today technical experts gave that long awaited report to Federal Judge John Sirica. They told him that eighteen minute gap in one of President Nixon's Watergate tapes was caused by a process of erasing and re-recording the tape as many as nine times. Furthermore, say the experts - the erasures were caused by hand operation of the tape machine. All of which they say would seem to contradict the testimony of the President's secretary who said the erasure apparently had been caused by inadvertant use of a foot pedal while answering a phone call. The technicians also say there is evidence the tape had contained conversation - but with no known way of recovering any of it.

ENERGY

Home owners and office workers began turning down their thermostats today because of a new fifteen percent cutback in heating oil allocations. But even as the thermostats went down the government promised that no one would freeze this winter. The goal is to achieve an average thermostat setting of sixty-five degrees - which officials believe will save enough oil to get us through the winter.

In Utah, the energy crisis is forcing seventy families in the town of Castle Gate to move out of their homes so an oil company can use the land to help produce coal. The town's entire population of two hundred and five must relocate. They are on property belonging to the McCullough Oil Company of Los Angeles which has offered the home owners compensation.

MID EAST

Secretary of State Kissinger - working with Israeli officials in Jerusalem - ~~today~~ today organised a special group to draft a new proposal to Egypt on the thorny issue of separating ^{the} opposing troops along the Suez front. Kissinger says the major differences now hinge on the size and strength of the military forces each side wants to leave on its territory.

He intends to present the new plan to Egypt's

President Sadat tomorrow. "The differences which now exist are manageable" says one source; adding ^{that}

["]~~and~~ Kissinger does not ~~cannot~~ consider the problem

as great as it was two days ago."

INDONESIA

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Anything ~~more~~ bearing the label - "made in Japan" became a target in Jakarta today as hundreds of thousands of Indonesians protested the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka by overturning Japanese cars - smashing Japanese ~~cars~~ store windows, ripping down Japanese flags and attacking Japanese newsmen in the streets. ~~At least~~ At least seven of the rioters were shot and killed by police who used water ~~hoses~~ hoses to drive ~~the howling~~ mobs ~~out~~ away from a compound where Tanaka was under heavy guard. The demonstrators were objecting to what they call - Japanese domination of the Indonesian economy."

VISIT

Soviet Communist Party Chief Brezhnev is expected to make his first visit to Cuba later this month - probably beginning about January Twenty-Fourth. He will be the first Soviet leader to visit Cuba since Premier Kosygin was there a couple of years ago.

COPTERS

In Hartford, Connecticut - United Aircraft's

Sikorsky division says the Federal government has given it permission to discuss the possible sale of American made helicopters to China. If the transaction takes place it will be the first time the U.S. has allowed heavy duty copters to be sold outside the western world.

ACCIDENT

A bus - loaded with farm laborers being carried to work - missed a turn in the pre-dawn darkness near Blyth, Southern California, and plunged into ten feet of water, in an irrigation canal. At least nineteen were drowned, twenty-eight others injured. The bus had picked up the laborers - including several women - from points near Mexicali, Mexico, and Calexico, California - two well known border towns.

JANITOR

In Tulsa, Oklahoma - forty-six year old John Carr for one brief and shining moment - considered himself to be about the richest janitor in the world.

As he walked through the sliding doors of a Tulsa bank he saw a bundle of fifty hundred dollar bills on the floor. When he picked them up Carr says ~~he said~~ at first he thought of the old adage "finders keepers." But he thought again - and he turned in the money, all five thousand dollars of it. It seems a customer had dropped the money from an open envelope. The bank gave Carr a C-note -- a one hundred dollar bill as a reward.

Says Carr, "at least for a few minutes I felt like a zillionaire!"

SISTER

In Chicago, there lives a Nun known as Sister

*Fixit - because she knows how to fix almost anything that
won't work - typewriters, radios, TV sets and so on. For*

*Sister Fixit whose real name is Valentine Marie Zajdel -
repairing things has been a hobby, but now approaching fifty
and her retirement, she wants to make this her vacation.*

*Sister Fixit just wants to go on fixing things, for a bit of
moolah as well as just for fun.*