

Wednesday, October 6, 1971

DAMASCUS

From Damascus comes a report of an attempt to assassinate Palestinian guerrilla leader, Yasser Arafat. A band of unidentified gunmen - way-laying Arafat's car; shooting it up - and killing his chauffeur. Somehow Arafat himself escaped unscathed.

WHITE HOUSE

From the White House comes an announcement that President Nixon is just about ready to "drop the other shoe." This on a nationwide broadcast - at seven thirty tomorrow night, eastern time; at which time - we are told - an unveiling of that long awaited "Phase Two" in the President's new economic plan.

Meanwhile, the House today approved an important element of the President's Phase One. Passing by voice vote - a new tax cut; one that could benefit both individuals and corporations - in the amount of more than fifteen billion over the next three years. This reflecting, in the President's words - "an overwhelming national will for prompt legislative action - to stimulate the economy, create jobs and halt inflation."

On another front - the President was moving swiftly to end that west coast dock strike; ordering the Justice Department to seek an eighty day cooling off period - under the terms of the Taft Hartley Act. The President

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wants a similar action in a labor dispute involving grain elevators in Chicago. As for the East Coast dock strike, nothing new.

Not only was America's role as a would-be peace maker in the Middle East roundly condemned yesterday in Israel, but Today at the U N - it was Egypt's turn./ Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad - accusing the U S of a "basic contradiction" in what it says and what it does. This - said he - as demonstrated by repeated assertions - that the U S wants only peace in the Middle East; while at the same time ~~it~~ goes on ~~to~~ arming Israel.

As for that new six point U S peace plan starting out with a reopening of the Suez Canal - no dice, said Riad. Adding that any attempt to cover the Suez in a "separate agreement" - would be playing ~~it~~ into Israel's hands; and thereby - said he - actually frustrating "the realization of peace in the Middle East."

WASHINGTON

Elsewhere in Washington - a National Democratic Woman's Leadership Conference, main speaker - Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien; urging the many Democratic presidential hopefuls - to do more than just attack President Nixon. The public demands - said he - "that a political party speak constructively and sensibly on foreign and domestic issues;" that anything less - is merely courting disaster.

O'Brien also noting that the Democratic chances of regaining the White House in Nineteen Seventy Two - were "impossible" just two years ago; and even last year - still "improbable." So, what are their chances now? They are at least - "within the realm of the possible," says Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien, hopefully.

VATICAN

At the Vatican, at another session of the world synod of Bishops, the subject again was priestly celibacy.

While Pope Paul was addressing an audience at nearby St. Peter's basilica and saying the synod of Bishops will produce no doctrinal changes. Said the Pope: "We cannot even think about changes, evolution or transformation in the church - in matters of faith." Adding: "the church is tenaciously conservative."

EMPEROR HIRO HITO

Emperor Hirohito's London visit was marred somewhat today by an ex-Japanese prisoner of war; a man who shouted abuse at the Emperor on the latter's arrival at St. James' Palace. As he was led away by police - the ex-POW said he had been tortured for three months straight. A few minutes later, though came one of the highlights of the Emperor's trip; an award, short of a Nobel Prize, perhaps the loftiest honor in science - a fellowship in the famed Royal Society for his work - with marine life. He entered plain old Emperor Hirohito and emerged Emperor Hirohito, Fellow of the Royal Society! Ah so!

PEKING

Emperor Haile Salassie of Ethiopia - the famed Lion of Judah, was a visitor today at Peking where he was met by hundreds of thousands of cheering Red Chinese - also by Peking's Chou En Lai. Chairman Mao was not there. So, there are more rumors. Where is Mao?

MOSCOW

Moscow - a look at "love," Russian style; as compiled from a rare poll of some fifteen hundred young working class couples. The study, for example, that half of these Russian newly weds - intend to have only one child; despite the Kremlin's urging them to have at least three. The study also showing that most of the young couples - met almost by chance; mostly - during vacations; with subsequent marriage following a brief courtship. All of which is said to demonstrate - "the free and uncompromising choice of one's husband or wife in the Soviet Union." And this - Bill, says Moscow, is no sharp contrast with so-called "bourgeois society" - where the Russians tell us "property considerations" are paramount!

VINA

The life of a Trappist monk - by church definition, a life of contemplation, a life of penance, a life "of suffering with Christ" - all in stony silence.

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Not all the monks are happy about it though. Indeed, there was one Trappist who already had maintained silence for nearly half a century, and when advised of his new freedom - the old monk muttered: "Is there nothing sacred any more?" And so long until tomorrow.

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