

Wed. Dec. 18-68.

A slip of the lip in Washington - the signal for a new gold rush ~~today~~ in London, Paris, Zurich. ~~With the~~ price of gold soaring to ~~more than~~ forty-four dollars an ounce, highest since ~~the last~~ July. Posing additional pressures on the ailing French franc - the British pound - also the American dollar.

~~This~~ all because of a statement yesterday - from Treasury Secretary - designate David Kennedy; who refused to commit himself to a guaranteed thirty-five dollar an ounce price for gold,  ~~preferring~~ - as he put - it to keep "every option open" - at least for the time being.

End result though - an official statement from Nixon headquarters in New York, ~~Asserting~~ flatly that no change is anticipated ~~in~~ the official price of gold. <sup>This an</sup> ~~Attempt~~ to head off any further confusion - when the gold markets ~~reopen~~ again tomorrow. Meanwhile, David Kennedy was observing - it would be "crazy" for

anyone to speculate on the price of gold - solely  
on the basis of what he had said. The Secretary-to-be  
apparently forgetting that "gold fever" often ~~causes~~  
causes people to do crazy things. — shades of  
Chilboat Pass and the Trail of '98!

PARIS

On the peace front - Paris - a report tonight that ~~new~~ expanded talks now appear hopelessly bogged down - even before they start; With Saigon and Washington - said to be still at odds on procedural arrangements; while Hanoi - is publicly blaming both for the continued delay.

At the same time - South Vietnamese <sup>Vice</sup> President <sup>^</sup> Ky was firing back today at his American critics.

"I would like those irresponsible people - to shut their mouths at this difficult time," said he. Adding: "I have to fight not only the enemy - but also so-called friends."

The latest - A report Ky may return to Saigon for new instructions.

WASHINGTON

For President Johnson - another trip today  
to Bethesda Naval Hospital - his fourth since becoming  
President. ~~Nothing serious - says the White House;~~  
~~not even the Hong Kong Flu<sup>?</sup> - which has beset so many~~  
~~of us,~~ <sup>No.</sup> ~~The~~ The President's doctor describing<sup>ing</sup> his ailment  
as merely "an upper respiratory infection with a slight  
bronchial infection" - which is bad enough.

PHOENIX

Earl D. Eisenhower , a younger brother  
of the former President - victim of a heart attack  
today at Phoenix, Arizona. Earl Eisenhower - a one-  
time engineer in Pennsylvania - later a publisher's  
representative in Chicago. Also ~~serving~~ a term in the  
Illinois State legislature - before retiring to Arizona  
two years ago. He was seventy.



Another Berlin crisis - perhaps in the making; with Bonn announcing plans ~~today~~ - to convene its federal assembly <sup>in West</sup> ~~in~~ Berlin next ~~week~~ March. Purpose - to elect a new President of the West German Republic.

Three times in the past - the Federal Assembly has met in West Berlin; and each time - the Russians have attempted to interfere. Which explains a <sup>(recent</sup> ~~recent~~ French request - suggesting a change of venue. However, <sup>was</sup> Bonn taking today's ~~new~~ action after consultation with the U S and Britain - who said, in effect: "It's up to you."

## CHU LAI

~~A footnote to the war in Vietnam - comes~~  
~~today~~ <sup>Vietnam - a</sup> from Chu Lai, ~~The~~ story of an army horse  
handler - one of the last of a vanishing breed. Staff  
Sergeant Robert Parker of Junction City, Kansas -  
whose job it is to capture wild Vietnamese ~~horses~~ horses;  
later training them for use by Montagnard tribesmen -  
as pack animals - also, riding horses.

Taking and breaking the horses - no problem  
at all - says Sergeant Parker. The ~~big~~ big job - says  
he - convincing the Montagnards that horses are good  
for something besides food.

Speaking of food - or a reasonable facsimile  
~~of~~ thereof - this next from <sup>at</sup> the University of Wisconsin;  
where bio-chemist Mark Stahmann ~~is~~ predicting <sup>5</sup> today -  
an eventual fazing-out of meat as a staple of <sup>diet,</sup> ~~the~~  
~~American diet.~~

~~Reason - said he -~~ cows, pigs and such  
<sup>too</sup> are ~~terribly~~ inefficient, <sup>he says,</sup> losing about ninety percent  
of the ~~plant~~ plant protein they consume; ~~whereas~~ whereas  
humans have the knowledge to convert plant protein  
- nearly one hundred percent into meat substitutes.  
<sup>He says</sup>  
~~Stahmann adding that in this way -~~ an area the size  
of Texas could easily supply the minimum protein need  
of the entire world population.

<sup>Prof.</sup>  
~~Indeed,~~ Stahmann ~~going so far as to~~ suggest  
a menu of the future <sup>to</sup> ~~that might~~ include: Alfalfa  
extract puree over rice - mashed potatoes with sorghum-  
sudan gravy, salad; and, for dessert - a gourmet delight -  
soy bean pudding. ~~ugh~~



For the first time in nearly a century -  
the owl is showing up on U S Christmas cards this year.  
Raising a number of questions which are answered today  
by a leading card manufacturer.

According to legend - we are told - the  
Three Wise Men summoned all the ~~birds~~ birds of the  
~~forest~~ forest - to join them on a journey to Bethlehem  
and all did - except the owl, a night creature who  
was asleep at the time. The owl supposedly waking up  
briefly - asking "who, who who is it that bids me to  
follow?" - <sup>and promptly falling</sup> ~~only to fall~~ fast asleep again.

And that - we are told - is why the owl  
is destined to roam the night forever asking - "who,  
who, who?"

Who? why you Warren.

# MINNEAPOLIS

From Minneapolis <sup>came</sup> the story ~~today~~ of a

young man who stripped off his clothes in twenty degree weather; then paraded nude for two blocks in the heart of the city, breaking every store window in sight.

Total damage - coming to ten thousand bucks.

Police who finally arrested the young man

later reporting - he hadn't taken a thing - <sup>and they</sup> ~~which~~ are wondering just what was bugging him, suggests that he was just trying to encourage ~~and~~ He had no clothes on - but what did he ~~clear, unobstructed view~~ unobstructed view of things. have on his mind?