

Wednesday, December 25, 1974

FORD

President Ford, still at Vail, Colorado, on his Christmas holiday; this morning he exchanged presents with his family and then took off for another day on skis - his fourth at Vail, in the Western slope. With the mercury at twelve below - the President went up the eleven thousand foot mountain - accompanied by ski instructor Dennis Hoeger - plus, of course, the usual secret service contingent (I wonder how they handle the Vail trails?) and several friends, perhaps Pete Seibert and Pepi Gramshammer. For the skiing President it was another ideal day in the Colorado Rockies.

A meeting with top economic advisors, has been scheduled by the President for Saturday; at Vail.

CIA

Secretary Kissinger sent President Ford a fifty page report today dealing with the CIA's alleged domestic spying activities - the latest to come up on Capitol Hill. An Air Force plane flew the report to Colorado.

The document prepared by C I A director William Colby - is in answer to newspaper reports that the C I A, at one time, had the names of ten thousand Americans in its files.

C I A spokesmen say only those Americans in illegal contact with foreign governments were put under surveillance.

WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile in Washington there was a tense situation on the White House grounds, for about four hours this morning. A young black man - wearing an Arab head-dress - crashed his car through a gate and then warned police his body was wired with explosives from head to toe. After demanding to talk to the Pakistani Ambassador, the man - was identified as cab driver Marshall Fields, about twenty, a native, of Silver Springs, Maryland - finally surrendered without making his motives clear. No shots were fired, and Fields was taken to a hospital for psychiatrist observation. The "explosives" turned out to be mere auto warning flares. The young man, not an Arab, obviously deranged.

HI JACK

An Air India Seven Forty Seven Jumbo Jet with one hundred fifty five aboard - landed safely at the Rome airport today. The story? The plane - flying from Bombay to New York - was over Athens when a male passenger burst into the cockpit - flourishing a pocket knife and ordering the pilot to "crash" the plane into Rome. Two stewards overpowered the would-be hi-jacker who turned out to be a Czech-born Canadian. When questioned his replies were incoherent. So, it was more madness. However, the Rome police say he had in his pockets two thousand dollars in counterfeit Canadian bills.

DARWIN

As for the cyclone that hit Northern Australia ~~A cyclone with~~ winds ~~up~~ up to one hundred and

~~seventy~~ seventy five miles an hour - struck the north~~ern~~

~~coast~~ ~~Australian~~ city of Darwin today leaving at least forty-

nine dead. ~~and~~ The toll ^{probably will be} ~~may be~~ higher. ^{more} Hundreds were

injured and some twenty thousand ~~reportedly~~ left

~~homeless~~ ^{of} the city's total population of more than
thirty seven thousand were left homeless.

Darwin of course will be remembered by many American
airmen who were ^{based} there after the
Japanese swarmed over the
Philippines in ~~the~~ the early days
of W. W. II

BIRDS

A christmas reprieve for some fourteen million black birds. That's the word from Milan ^{that is Milan} Tennessee where the Army had planned to ^{wipe out} ~~the~~ the birds as ~~pests~~ pests - because of problems they created for an ammunition depot. Those who opposed the plan now have until January Twentieth to ^{explain} ~~say~~ their ~~own~~ ~~comments and~~ views - ~~and~~ ^{to} tell why they are so concerned about the Milan, Tenn. blackbirds.

MOSCOW

In Moscow a speaker told a Kremlin meeting of the Soviet commission for ~~international women's year~~ ^{International Womens} Year that "womens lib can pave the way to international detente." The speaker was deputy chief of the Soviet womens movement - Boris Ponomarev -- ~~who~~ ^{and Boris is just} happens to be a man. ~~Presiding over the meeting was the~~ ^{! Presiding over the meeting was the} chief of the womens commission - Kirill Mazurov - he's a man, too.

HOLIDAY

A Christmas snow storm blanketed the eastern Great Lakes region, ^{parts of} ~~across~~ New York ~~and~~ Pennsylvania and New England, ^{much of} ~~but it was~~ Showers and thunderstorms ^{for} ~~in~~ many other parts of the country.

~~A~~ dense fog hid the morning sun in the Florida pan-handle. ^{than prophesied} Brighter were the retail sales estimates for Christmas shopping across the nation, - reportedly ~~to be~~ running ~~as much as~~ five percent over last year.

[¶] The yuletide spirit ~~was~~ prevailed in most places, ~~but~~
In Canton, Ohio, one resident thought of something old Scrooge didn't think of. Awakened during the night by Christmas carolers at the front door, he ~~thought~~ thought they were prowlers and fired a rifle ~~through~~ through the window - injuring a girl caroler who, ^{happily is} ~~reportedly~~ reported ~~to be~~ to be recovering and ready to go caroling again.