

PARIS

Thurs. Aug 7 69

On the peace front - Paris - another exercise
in polemics today. For two-and-a-half hours - the
Communist side saying "no" to every American peace
proposal, ^{and} saying no - in every conceivable fashion - till
finally - our turn. Henry Cabot Lodge telling the
Communists - there will never be peace until they learn
at last to say "yes". And he added - "we have done all
that we can do by ourselves to bring a negotiated peace
to Vietnam - now it is time for you to respond."

16/2

VIETNAM

Sofar though - the only apparent Communist response - in a series of new terrorist attacks in Vietnam. Including a bomb blast today - at an American operated school for South Vietnamese service men in Saigon; killing at least nine - and wounding scores more. This in the wake of that earlier attack - on a U S hospital complex at Cam Ranh Bay; killing at least two - wounding fifty seven others.

HOUSE

47
The biggest most comprehensive tax reform bill in U S history - half way home tonight. Winning speedy passage in the House after only two ~~two~~ days of ~~floor~~ ^{now} floor debate. ~~Headed~~ ~~now~~ for the Senate - and perhaps the toughest ~~leg~~ leg of its journey. In any case, the bill as presently written - covering three hundred and sixty eight pages; in effect, rewriting the entire income tax law - as first adopted in Nineteen Thirteen. With its main thrust - an effort at closing up seven billion dollars worth of tax loop holes; while handing back nine billion - in the form of individual tax reductions.

WHITE HOUSE

For Chancellor Kiesinger of West Germany -
a warm, ~~colorful~~ reception today at the White House.
Including the pomp and circumstance befitting a state
visit - also, a homely touch or two.

President Nixon telling his guest - the United
States will "probably stand with you as friends ^{and} as allies."
Further remarking that Mrs Nixon's mother - was a
native-born German. The President adding: "Every place
you go in the United States - you will receive a warm
welcome." The Chancellor, for his part - noting that
two of his grand-daughters are American citizens, indeed,
Washington residents. And he pointed them out - watching
from a front row position along with their mother.

MOSCOW FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile, in Moscow, the subject of Berlin was coming to the fore again. ~~The~~ The three Ambassadors from the U S, Britain and France - all making direct approaches today to the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Urging speedy talks on ways and means of improving access to that divided city - while at the same time improving relations between East and West ~~Germany~~ Germany. This - as you know - in response to a recent speech by Soviet Premier Gromyko; who said the Soviet Union is ready at last - "to exchange opinions on how to prevent now and in the future - complications around West Berlin."

BUCHAREST

Bucharest again - second day of Rumania's

Tenth Communist Party Congress. Time for the chief

Soviet delegate - to get ⁱⁿ his first two cents. Secretary

Konstantin Katushev of the Soviet Central Committee -

warning against a "go it alone" policy by Rumania or

~~any~~ any other Communist country. Asserting that Russia

will use "any effort" to counter excessive independence

or disunity within the ~~Soviet~~ Socialist ranks. And he

added that the U S policy of "building bridges" to Eastern

Europe - is a "perfidious tactic" not to be tolerated.

*In short, ~~an attempt at contradicting Rumania's current~~
foreign policy - right down the line.*

ADD BUCHAREST

However the Rumanians ^{were} quick to demonstrate

- they're not buying. Following Katushev's speech -
with the reading of a telegram from Red China. A telegram
wishing Rumania all success - in quote, its defense of
national independence." At which point - the Soviet
~~the~~ delegate staged a brief walkout.

TRANSPORT

As predicted, President Nixon presented to Congress today -- a new ten billion dollar mass ~~transit~~ transit program . In the President's own words - a plan that "would help to replaced, improve, and expand local bus and rail ~~and~~ and subway systems" throughout America. Badly needed - said he - if we are ever to cope with "the increasing congestion of our roads - and ~~stragglers~~ strangulation of our cities." The President adding: "We will never be able to build highways fast enough - until we make public ~~transit~~ transportation an attractive alternative to ~~private~~ private car use."

As for Congressional reaction - it was mostly good - with one glaring exception. A number of ~~legislator~~ legislators objecting to the President's idea - that the program should be funded from general government revenues. They propose that the money, come, instead - from the excise tax on new cars and similar levies.

And so ^{there may be} ~~it appears~~ a tough fight ahead.

MARS

The question - one that has plagued the mind of man down through the ages. "Is there life on Mars?" And the answer today - a qualified "yes". This according to Dr. George Pimentel of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Pasadena, California who bases his conclusion on infrared spectroscopy^{ic} experiments - carried out by Mariner Seven on its recent "fly-by" of Mars. Dr. Pimentel saying the space ~~craft~~ craft clearly detected gaseous methane and ammonia - near the South Polar cap of that mysterious Red planet. And he added: "We can't refrain from speculation - that they might be of biological origin."

Dr. Norman Horowitz - another J P L scientist - agreeing in part with Dr. Pimentel. Saying: "We have^{as} yet found no incompatible evidence - against some evolutionary extension of life as we know it." The only thing - said he: "If there are inhabitants on Mars - then these inhabitants must be microbes," Warren.

WASHINGTON

The nation's first "truth in packaging law"

- set to take effect September Tenth. So announced today -
by the Federal Trade Commission which added that the new
law will cover virtually every type of packaged product -
destined for human consumption or else personal care;
everything from baby food to rutabaga - from peanut
butter to pumpkin seeds; with only five exceptions -
meat, dairy products, soft drinks, alcohol and tobacco.

What will all this mean to the average housewife?

Simply an exact measure - of the quantity of the product
she is buying - or considering buying, ~~up~~ to and including
weight and actual square footage in items such as tissues,
paper ~~tissues~~ towels and so on. ^{Will this} ~~helpfully~~ ending once
and for all the confusion ^{over} ~~of preparing~~ so-called "giant"
"king sized" or "family sized" products. [?] ~~Although the~~
~~first few weeks, I suspect - a slide rule might come in~~
handy.