

Wednesday, August 7, 1968

MIAMI BEACH

Miami Beach - the countdown. At the Republican National Convention - this is the moment of truth, with the odds on favorite - so far - Richard Nixon. Practically every indicator pointing to a Nixon victory - perhaps as early as the first ballot. Since the Nixon camp is claiming - more than seven hundred "sure" votes; or well beyond the magic figure - of six-sixty-seven.

ROCKY-REAGAN FOLLOW MIAMI BEACH

Far from conceding anything though -

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Rockefeller and Reagan were still carrying forward their last-ditch ~~drive~~ ^{drive} to "stop Nixon". The two challengers - hurrying ~~from~~ from Hotel to Hotel today. Attempting to scrape up enough votes to deny Nixon the nomination - at least on the first ballot. Each ~~of them~~ hoping against hope - to start a landslide of his own on succeeding ballots.

Rockefeller, ~~is particularly~~ blasting away at the front-runner, Accusing Nixon of "catering" to the South - at the expense of the entire Republican Party.

"We're not going to win nationally - with ^a candidate beholden to southern delegates" -- said Rockefeller.

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Adding: "I don't think we can unite the country that way either."

NIXON FOLLOW ROCKY-REAGAN

As for Nixon - no sweat. The former Vice President holding forth again today - in his ~~own~~ suite at the Hilton Plaza. Meeting with friends, advisers, and delegates - consolidating his strength for the final push. The atmosphere at Nixon headquarters -- perhaps best summed up in a single word: "Confidence."

Indeed, the speculation has already begun in earnest - on the choice of a suitable running mate.

With Senator Hatfield of Oregon - said to be Nixon's first choice for Vice President. ^{Mark} Hatfield himself

saying: "I would consider it a great honor."

PARIS

Meanwhile in Paris - the lucky number today appears to be sixteen. ^{The} Sixteenth round ^{of} peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam - marking perhaps a ~~new~~ major turning point. With Hanoi indicating for the first time - a possible gesture at reciprocity in return for U S de-escalation.)

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^ This in the form of a statement - from North Vietnam's Nguyen Thanh Le, taking note of a lull in the fighting in South Vietnam - over the past month. Suggesting further that the ~~United~~ United States "carefully study" -- recent statements from North Vietnam. Which is as close as Hanoi has yet come -- to accepting U S terms for a complete bombing halt of the North.

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

The reason perhaps explained, in part, by a captured enemy document - made public today in Saigon. The Red paper telling of a growing shortage of guns and bullets - among the Viet Cong. A shortage now said to have reached a "seriously high level - in some units."

Be that as it may - Hanoi Radio was hinting today that the Viet Cong ^{may} soon launch another major offensive in the South. ^{again} Expected target - Saigon. Except that U S and allied counter-measures - may have already ~~be~~ dulled the enemy punch. ~~For example, a week long thrust into that "forbidden forest" - just southwest of Saigon - ending today with a bag of more than two hundred enemy dead. Allied losses - none.~~

PITTSBURGH

On the steel front - the White House wins again. With giant U S Steel announcing ~~today~~ a new set of government-approved "selective" price increases. Thereby forcing an immediate price rollback - among other producers. Those who had ~~asked~~ earlier scheduled across-the-board increases - ~~of~~ of five per cent or more.

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~~In Washington - the ~~past~~ President's Council of Economic Advisers quickly hailing the U S steel action - as extremely "gratifying". Adding that the resulting price advance - will be "roughly half" that originally planned.~~

WALTER REED

At Walter Reed Army Hospital -- former
President Eisenhower ~~continues to fight back~~ ^{the} Doctors
~~reporting today that he~~ is making satisfactory progress -
from that latest heart attack. ~~His vital signs still~~
~~stable. Which indicates~~ he's coming along - just about
as well as can be expected. Good news.

BUCHAREST-LONDON

Repercussions from Czechoslovakia's

"go-it-alone" - victory of last week - began breaking into the open today; in London -- also Bucharest.

In the British capital - some two hundred Ukrainian students clashing with British police - during an attempt to storm the Soviet Embassy. The student demonstrators demanding for the Soviet Ukraine - "the same kind of freedom the Czechs have won."

While at Bucharest - the ~~Mayerich~~ Romanian government was preparing a formal protest to the Soviet Union - also - to four of Russia's staunchest East European satellites. Romania claiming a direct affront - in the fact that she was barred from recent Communist summit meetings dealing with the Czech crisis.

TASHKENT

A young American expatriate - found guilty
as charged today in the Soviet city of Tashkent. Stephen
Abbey - twenty-three -- originally of California --
sentenced to three years ⁱⁿ ~~imprisonment~~ The third
American - among seven foreigners, in all; convicted
of using Tashkent as a way-stop -- for an international
hashish smuggling ring.

LONDON

From London - comes an ominous report ~~every~~ crediting Russia with apparent development -- of the "ultimate weapon" in underseas warfare. This - we are told - a revolutionary "silent" submarine; in effect -- an "invisible" submarine.

The trick supposedly accomplished - says the British Admiralty - by maximum sound-proofing of the sub's ~~interior~~ interior equipment; while at the same time ~~with~~ minimizing "flow noise" -- or external water turbulence; with the result said to be a craft - ~~is~~ capable of eluding the best underwater sonar now in existence.

London asserting, however - that all is not lost. Explaining ^{how} ~~that~~ western scientists are working even now - on new, improved transducers - or directional finders. The better to build new, improved sonar devices ~~that will~~ ^{to} make the so-called 'invisible' submarine once again visible. And now - our invisible Warren Moran; you should see him!

NEW YORK

~~To help offset the U.S. balance of payments~~
~~of deficit~~ -- Washington is doing its best these days to
encourage foreigners to "visit the U.S.A." ~~drawing on~~
~~occasion today~~ ^{and today} ~~from~~ the Society of American travel
writers ~~which is~~ ^{ed} posting handbills around New York
-- telling how you, too, can "be a sidewalk ambassador"
for the United States.

Among the suggestions: Be friendly - courteous
- hospitable; be enthusiastic and well-informed ~~by~~ about
your own local sight-seeing attractions. **S**peak slowly
and distinctly -- but not loudly - when assisting a
foreign visitor; walk with him a block -- or even more ^e
if necessary - to point out the way; and above all,
remember that at least one visitor's most unforgettable
memory of America ~~s~~ - could be you.