

Friday, May 11, 1973

LOS ANGELES

In the Pentagon Papers trial at Los Angeles - a full acquittal - no verdict. Judge Matt Byrne - dismissing all charges against Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo; because, of, quote, "improper conduct" - which he said had jeopardized their rights to a fair trial - in other words trial ends on a technicality. One, said the judge because of disclosure of a burglary at Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office by a White House espionage squad. And two - a report from the FBI that there had been a wiretap of Ellsberg's wiretap conversations - in spite of previous government denials. These said to constitute - "an unprecedented series of actions with respect to the defendants."

CAPITOL FOLLOW LOS ANGELES

Marine Commandant General Robert Cushman testified today before a combined meeting of three Congressional panels; all of whom - are checking possible illegal CIA involvement in domestic security matters.

General Cushman's testimony - dealing with his tenure as deputy director of the CIA. The General saying it was he who authorized the CIA to supply disguises and other equipment - used in the attempted burglary of Daniel Ellsberg psychiatrist's office. But he did so - said he - only on direct orders from former White House aide John Erlichman.

The General also calling his actions - "perfectly proper." Adding: "The CIA comes under the authority of and works for the National Security Council - which is, of course, the President himself."

HOUSE

We have
~~Capitol Hill again~~ a report today from a House
subcommittee, telling of "widespread and rampant" use of
drugs - in professional sports. Committee Chairman
Harley Staggers further charging that "such drug use exists,
in varying degrees - in all sports and levels of competition,
with few exceptions." He also urged the professional
league - to consider "barring for life" convicted drug
abusers.

WHITE HOUSE

**From the White House ^{and} from Hanoi - comes a joint
U.S. and North Vietnamese announcement [&] confirming plans
for a Paris meeting - between ~~Henry~~ ^{Dr.} Kissinger and Le Duc
Tho. The date - next Thursday.**

**This - we are told - "in order to review the
implementation of the Paris agreement - and restoring peace
- on ending the war
in Vietnam; and to find measures to bring about the strict
implementation - of that agreement."**

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the first of America's Skylab
astronauts - were ~~given~~ ^{given} today their final physical check-ups
Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin - ^{and were found} ~~all~~ ^{all} ~~the~~ ^{all} ~~way.~~ ^{the way.}

While this was going on - the twin countdowns for
the Skylab space station and its three many ferry ship -
proceeding smoothly. The weatherman also predicting
favorable conditions - at launch time; which is Monday -
for the Skylab; a day later - for the ferry ship.

WARSAW

Soviet Communist Party leader ~~LEONID~~ Brezhnev arrived in Warsaw today - on a brief, unofficial visit to Poland. ^{This we hear} an expression ~~of~~ of continued Kremlin solidarity with Poland.

Brezhnev will head next - for East Berlin; where he plans to confer - with Communist East Germany's Erich Honecker; and then - It's on to Bonn; for the start of a five-day state visit - ^{to} West Germany; The first ever by a Soviet leader - since World War Two.

BONN FOLLOW WARSAW

Meanwhile, the Bonn government was approving today - a new "good neighbor" treaty with East Germany. This is the final prerequisite - to Brezhnev's visit; in the words of Chancellor Willy Brandt - a reflection of "post-war reality."

"But this German realism is not a one-sided affair" - said Brandt. Adding: "I therefore must most earnestly point out to the other side - that it still maintains the most unnatural frontier in our area of civilization." Meaning, of course - the Berlin Wall.

OIL

From the U. S. Federal Trade Commission - a threat today of possible anti-trust action against the nation's major oil companies. This - on the basis of a preliminary investigation; said to suggest that "major company control of refinery capacity and pipelines" - may have contributed "in a major way" to the current gasoline shortage.

TOKYO

The government of Japan - one of the first in the world to legalize abortion; way back in Nineteen-Forty-Nine - in the mids[†] of post-war poverty; when it was ruled that a woman could get an abortion - by simply telling her doctor she couldn't afford a child.

However, the Japanese abortion rate ^{was} ~~λ~~ soon exceeding the Japanese birth rate. Indeed, the Japanese birth rate has continued to fall - to the point where labor supply has dwindled sharply. A high school graduate - often having his choice of eight or ten good jobs.

As a result, the Japanese Cabinet ^{today} ~~approving today~~ ~~proposed~~ legislation for cutting back abortions. The new bill - still to permit abortion for good and valid cause; but ~~specifying~~ specifying that such cause - shall not include, henceforth, "economic reasons."

SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz County in California ^{has been} the scene of a number of recent mass murders by former mental patients. This leading to a bitter blast ~~from~~ Santa Cruz District Attorney Peter Chang; a blast aimed at ^{what he calls} ~~so-called~~ "tell-me-about-it specialists and bleeding heart advocates" ~~in~~ the psychiatry profession.

"Too many psychiatrists" - said Chang - "think they can determine a defendant's sanity, potential for violence, or degree of recovery - by a simple one-hour interview." What's more - he continued - "many psychiatrists never bother to read the police files describing an offense. - Instead, they take the defendant's version at face value." "On occasion" - he added - "they have even been known to alter the defendant's version - so that it does not conflict with their own diagnosis."

Chang's remarks ^{were} ~~was~~ mainly prompted by the recent arrest of one Edmund Kemper; who killed his grandparents

as a teen-ager - was confined to a mental institution for
a few years - and then, on his release, killed eight others.

Chang noting that Kemper had once been checked by two
psychiatrists - just two days after he killed and dismembered
a fifteen-year-old girl; and was ^{by them} ~~then~~ declared - "no threat
to society."

NEW YORK

Here in New York - the death of one of America's great "insult" comedians.

Jack E. Leonard - the man who once said of Ed Sullivan: "There's nothing wrong with that reincarnation non' cure." On another occasion, describing the late J. Edgar Hoover - as "the man who took the crime out of Chicago, and brought it to New York." He also told the late Duke of Windsor: "You've been in this country so long - you ought to have your second papers by now."

His seemingly acid tongue was offset, however - by a genuine warmth that was hard to conceal. Jack E. once telling an interviewer: "An insult is only funny if it's ridiculous - and its ridiculous only if it's aimed at some really big shot."

Now - the final curtain. Jack E. Leonard - only sixty-two.

STERLING HEIGHTS

The latest winner in the State of Michigan's million-dollar lottery - Mrs. Mary O'Dell of Sterling Heights, Michigan. But it was her husband - who seemed to be doing most of the talking. "When you buy a ticket - you buy a dream" - said Lee O'Dell. Adding: "It so happens - our dream came true."

Lee O'Dell was then asked: What line of work are you in? He replied: "I work at Chrysler." Whereupon - a quick correction. Mary O'Dell saying: "You did work at Chrysler." After ^{Bill} all he had just won a million, ~~so~~ why work?

NATCHES

The widow of a black sharecropper at Natches, Mississippi - was honored today as the "Oldest Mom" in the U.S.A. Mrs. Lillie Rumbles - receiving an avalanche of roses; one for each year of her life - or a hundred and twelve, in all.

Mrs. Rumbles only son - like her husband ^{Mr. Rumbles} has long since passed on. But she still toasts five grandchildren - eighteen great-grandchildren - and more than fifty great-great grandchildren.

So a Happy Mother's Day to you, Mrs. Rumbles - and to mothers everywhere.