

Tues, Jan. 16 - '73,

The Florida White House was telling the world today - in effect, "easy does it." ^{That is} Press Secretary ~~Ron~~ Ziegler ^{was scetching} - ~~knocking down~~ a flood of rumors that a Vietnam cease-fire is imminent. ^{He was} Reporting that President Nixon will not address the nation on Vietnam - at any time this week; which includes, presumably - his Inaugural Address set for Saturday; also, saying that Henry Kissinger will not return to Paris this week - to resume talks with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.

Ziegler then went on to stress, however ^{that} there has been no hitch in the current negotiations. These are continuing - said he - under "a mutual agreement not to discuss the substance of talks - while they are in progress." Ziegler adding: "Our objective is to achieve a settlement of the Vietnam conflict through negotiations - and we are not going to let anything deter us from that objective."

SAIGON FOLLOW KEY BISCAVNE

Meanwhile, in Saigon, the President's personal representative - was conferring with South Vietnam's President Thieu. General Alexander Haig reportedly spelling out the details - of a new revised cease-fire agreement. Today's session - lasting more than two-and-a-half hours; after which ^{Gen.} Haig also conferr~~ed~~^{ed} - with U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and American military leaders. Officials adding that he plans to meet with government leaders in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand - before returning home.

WATERGATE

In the Watergate bugging trial - which is now down to two defendants - an attempt today at a novel defense.

Attorney Gerald Alch, who represents defendant John McCord - telling reporters that his client did help to break into Democratic National Headquarters. But he did it - said Alch - only "to prevent violence against Republican officials - including, but not limited to, the President." Alch adding that McCord's actions were thus justifiable - under the "law of duress." "If you know A is going to kill B" - said he - "then you can assault A - which would be against the law ordinarily - and it wouldn't be illegal."

When Alch attempted to pursue this line in court though - he was temporarily halted by Judge ~~John J.~~ Sirica. The latter demanding written arguments - before deciding whether Alch's contention is fair or foul.

SENATE

As you may have heard, a move is afoot in the Senate - to delay the confirmation of several new Cabinet appointees. A number of Democrats demanding assurances that these men will testify - if and when they are ever called before Senate committees. All of which - today drew a strong blast from Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott; who said that the Democrats in question - "are, of course, playing politics to the hilt."

Sen. Scott adding that the Senatorial delays clearly "have nothing to do with the merits of the nominees - but rather with the headlines the Senators are looking for." And "to delay the ^{arranging of the} President's Cabinet before the inauguration" - ~~said~~ Said he! - ~~with~~ "it is a little bit petty."

LOS ANGELES

Senator Tunney of California joined today in a growing protest - against a Federal plan for controlling air pollution in Southern California. Tunney charging that proposed measures such as gasoline rationing - would turn the Southern California basin into a "ghost town." Adding that said measures - were "unnecessarily harsh" and probably unenforceable. "I refuse to believe" - said he - "that the ten million people of this basin - must make a choice between environmental and economic disaster."

MOSCOW

Moscow - an announcement today that Lunokhod-Two has just landed on the moon. The Soviet spacecraft carrying a Russian mooncar - which now becomes the second such vehicle to traverse the lunar surface. The Soviets adding that this was all accomplished - "in a near-textbook operation."

HOUSTON FOLLOW MOSCOW

Here at home - starting as of midnight tonight - the first major simulation of the new earth-orbiting Skylab project. This - at the U.S. Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston; with astronauts Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin - setting off on a three-day "dry run;" working from flight plans detailing each day's activities - just as they will during the real flight.

DETROIT

United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock - one of the original members of the now-defunct Federal Pay Board; serving only a short time - when he quit in opposition to government controls.

Ah, but times change - and Woodcock is back again; accepting today a Presidential invitation - to serve on the government's new Labor-Management Advisory Committee. Woodcock explaining that he considers the President's recent switch to voluntary controls - "a step in the right direction."

GENEVA

Israeli Premier Golda Meir - a visitor today to the Jewish community in Rome; one of the oldest - in all the world. The Lady Premier - drawing cries of "Viva Golda;" whereupon she told the Roman Jews - how "very pleased" she was at her reception both in Italy and at the Vatican.

Later on, Madame Meir flying to Geneva - to meet with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast. An attempt - we are told - to shore up Israel's dwindling relations with Black Africa.

KABUL

Drug cultist Dr. Timothy Leary - who fled Switzerland earlier this month - has finally turned up again. The former Harvard professor - now a fugitive from U.S. justice - arriving at Kabul in Afghanistan. According to local officials, heading for "a colony of world travelers - who have used drugs and have located in Afghanistan;" ^{However} ~~except~~ ~~that~~ he was picked up by Afghanistan authorities - and placed in, quote, "a controlled environment."

The U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs - now attempting to get him back. Only one problem though. The U.S. has, as yet - no extradition treaty with Afghanistan.

FORT LAUDERDALE

From Fort Lauderdale, Florida - the story of George Olivier; a tourist from Montreal - driving along with a friend; when suddenly he spotted a sports car - just like ~~the~~ one ~~that was~~ stolen from him three months ago, nearly two thousand miles away, back in Canada. Indeed, closer inspection showing - it not only looked like the same car, it was the same car.

Olivier quickly calling police - which led to the arrest of Pierre Bilodeau, age twenty-one, of St. Therese, Quebec. And then a few questions - followed by the recovery of three more stolen cars. Police are also looking for two additional persons - believed to be members of what they now consider an international car theft ring.

TARPON SPRINGS

Tarpon Springs, Florida - once the unchallenged sponge capital of the U.S.A.; with annual sales just a few years back - running around ~~Two-and-aHalf~~ Million. ~~And~~ Then came synthetic sponges - followed by a virulent fungus disease - followed by hard times at Tarpon Springs.

According to ~~indeed,~~ the latest maritime report ~~disclosing that~~ Tarpon Springs now ~~can boast~~ ^{has} only five ~~sponging~~ boats and fewer than thirty ~~sponge~~ divers. ~~And an old timer~~ heard to say: "~~It's getting tougher and tougher - to sponge for a living.~~"

CHICAGO

This next - from Chicago; where a check of court records - now disclose a Quarter-of-Million-Dollar damage suit. One James Baer - age thirty - charging that he was "permanently disabled" - when he was hit ^{below the belt} by a golf ball, ~~a few~~ inches below the belt.

~~He may have a tough time proving it though.~~ James Baer, ~~you see~~ the same Chicago man - whose wife just gave birth to quintuplets.

CAREY FOLLOW SENATE

*Speaking of the inauguration - a brief item from
Carey, Ohio, From seventeen-year-old Vicki Cole. -
Remember - the young girl who urged President Nixon in
'Sixty-Eight to "bring us together?" At any rate, Vicki
observing today - that the President "really has brought
us together." Adding: "The whole atmosphere of the
country has calmed - ^{» Said she: -} he's done a great job."*

*Vicki also attended the 'Sixty-Nine inauguration -
but not this year. "It was very exciting" - said she -
"but one inauguration is enough." And a - l - u - t - m.*

SAN ANTONIO

**At Lackland Air Force Base - San Antonio, Texas -
another victory for women's rights - sort of. The powers
that be deciding that women Air Force recruits - deserve
equal treatment with men recruits. Therefore, ordering
that women shall now be assigned regularly to KP duty -
the same as men. In the words of the Lackland Office of
Information - a new "boost for women's equality."**