

Wednesday, October 24, 1973
Houston, Texas

PRESIDENT

The White House - an announcement today canceling the President's planned nationwide address - originally set for Nine tonight. The President scheduling instead - a full-scale press conference for nine tomorrow night.

The President's change of plans - said to have been caused by the immediate press of Middle East events. The White House saying the President's peace efforts - have included personal contact with Soviet Leader Brezhnev.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren further saying: "We are working for the full implementation of the U.S. cease-fire resolutions - and it appears that matters are calming down." Secretary of State Kissinger is also quoted as saying: "The cease fire appears to be taking hold."

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East meanwhile, a fierce battle today - at the southern end of the Suez Canal. Egypt's badly battered Third Army - attempting to escape encirclement by Israeli forces.

For the most part though - the fighting ^{had} ~~apparently~~ ceased with the first teams of U.N. truce observers already enroute to front line positions. Israel lifting it's nationwide blackouts - for the first time since the start of the new war.

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban - also claiming a great victory; in that the Arabs had ~~finally~~ promised - said he - to engage in direct negotiations with the Israelis. If such an event truly comes to pass - said Abba Eban - "the month's bloodshed and grief - will become a turning point in the history" of the Middle East.

At the same time, Egypt's President Sadat was sending identical pleas to the U.S. and Russia, urging the use of Soviet and American troops - to guarantee the peace, ^{it is.} if such

PENTAGON

Here at home again - the Pentagon reported today that the U.S. airlift on arms to Israel - "continues essentially unchanged; averaging about twenty flights daily - carrying seven to eight hundred tons."

For what it's worth, the Pentagon also noting that a Soviet airlift to Egypt and Syria - has been reduced somewhat. But the Soviet arms shipment - which started earlier is now said to total thirteen thousand tons; or more than half-again as much - as total U.S. shipments.

HOUSE

In the House - a temporary lull today in the clammer for impeachment proceedings. Most members - waiting to hear the President out.

House Speaker Carl Albert stressing, however that the entire matter is now in the hands of the House Judiciary

Committee. "They have been mandated to make an inquiry" - said he - "and they have said an inquiry they will make."

"I hope it is expeditious" - he went on - "and I hope we can lay to rest this issue, one way or another."

SENATE

But across Capitol Hill - a somewhat different tack.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voting today - to hold hearings on the President's dismissal of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. The first session - set for Monday.

This - mainly at the urging of Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts; who also said that Professor Cox himself - would be the first witness.

PRESIDENT

What ever his problems though - the President is still President; and he was showing it - again today. The President vetoing, as promised - a bill aimed at limiting his war-making powers. Calling it clearly un-constitutional - an attempt to "handcuff" the Chief Executive.

Observers adding that the President's veto - will almost certainly stick. If so, the eighth straight time just this year.

PEKING

From Peking and Washington - a joint announcement today rescheduling Henry Kissinger's planned visit to Red China. It's now set - for November tenth to thirteenth. The U.S. State Department adding that Dr. Kissinger - will also visit Japan. Exact date not disclosed - but sometime after his trip to Peking.

VIENNA

From Vienna - site of continuing oil price talks.

An Arab spokesman saying the oil war between the Americans and Arabs - has just begun. Also saying the Arabs decision to cut back oil production - will remain in effect, fighting or no.

"Simply a cease fire is not enough" - said he. Adding that the ultimate goal - "is to force Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory."

STEIN

From the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors - a preview today of coming food prices. Herbert Stein predicting good news - based mainly on expectations for more meat. "We are telling the housewife" - said he - "that food prices will be rising less rapidly; and a year from now - they will not be her number one concern."

On the debit side - Stein predicting perhaps a slight increase in unemployment. But he stressed that a slide into a recession - is "not likely."

CAPE KENNEDY

The space front - a slight mishap at Cape Kennedy.
The partial collapse of four giant fuel tanks - threatening
to delay the start of America's final Skylab mission. ^{Officials} ~~Officials~~
saying if they can't correct trouble, a planned November Tenth
launch date may be set back until sometime in December.

The problems at the Cape - were also having some
side effects in Washington. Skylab Director William Schneider
- attempting to get an extension on the original Skylab Three
flight plan; to prolong it from sixty days to eighty/days. But
the answer to Schneider's request now held in abeyance -
pending repairs.

TURNPIKE

The toll in today's chain reaction crisis on the New Jersey turnpike - now set at ten dead, more than forty injured. This as a result of at least thirty accidents - involving around sixty vehicles. A State Policeman blaming the tragedy on early morning fog - saying it was "as thick as a brick wall."

MOUNT MAKALU

Another avalanche story - is reported today from towering Mount Makalu in the Himalayas. U.S. mountain climber Fritz Stammberger of Colorado, his Sherpa guide and two bearers - were seemingly to be buried alive in their base camp up at an altitude of some sixteen thousand feet. What happened next - let Fritz tell it.

"We were under fifteen feet of snow - completely shut out from air" - said he; "but I said to myself - this is not the way to die - I will not die! So we struggled for three hours" - he continued - "and finally managed to make an air hole. We then enlarged it - and out we crawled, to safety."

For Fritz Stammberger, who hails from Aspen, Colorado - a mighty close call, but proving again where there is a will - there often is a way. So, never give up - and so on!

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*At Westminster Abbey in London - the final
countdown begins. The Archbishop of Canterbury issues
today - a "Royal Special License;" a document certifying that
Queen Elizabeth has given her approval - for Princess Anne's
upcoming wedding to Captain Mark Phillips.*

The big event - now just three weeks hence.

HAYS

At Hays, Kansas - the so-called first and last annual Msmatch (Miz-match) Events; an athletic competition - pitting two men against two women; with the first test - pole-vaulting. The men jumping a combined total of nearly eleven feet - as compared with the ladies high of three and a half feet.

Ah, but wait - Bill there is more to come. The ladies pledging to recoup in the next competition - which is jacks.

PAT

The White House again - a visit today from the nineteen seventy-three Muscular Dystrophy poster child six year old Michael Newsome of Louisville , Kentucky - presenting a book of drawings to Firs Lady Pat Nixon. These a gift from Michael's second grade class - most of the drawings signed, "Love."

In return - Mrs. Nixon giving Michael a big hug. She also observed that - "Things are looking up."