

Fri. Apr. 13-73.

The White House - an attempt today at a compromise with Senate investigators. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler telling of "ongoing communications" with the Senate's special Watergate committee. This - said he - in hopes of arranging for testimony - by Presidential aides. Ziegler adding that "everyone - is appalled by the Watergate burglary."

The White House also ~~expressed~~ ^{stated} its opposition today - to a bill aimed at making the FBI an independent agency. Ziegler going on to note that Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - has taken the same position. "I don't mention that to ally myself with him" - said Ziegler - "only to show that there is bipartisan opposition."

BEIRUT-JERUSALEM

In the Middle East - at Beirut - a shakeup today in the Lebanese government. Premier Saeb Salam handing in his resignation ^{because of} ~~over~~ the refusal of President Suleiman Franjeh to fire his Army Commander. The latter blamed by Salam - for failing to thwart that Israeli raid on Beirut.

Beirut again - Palestinian guerilla leader Yasser Arafat - pledging a swift response to the Israeli attack. "Nothing is lost by waiting" - said he. Adding: "The reply will be terrible."

Reverse side - Jerusalem - Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan - was telling of a new strategy. The Israelis will concentrate, henceforth - said he - on a policy of pre-emptive rather than retaliatory action.

CAIRO FOLLOW BEIRUT-LEBANON

Meanwhile, Egypt's Foreign Minister - Mohamed El-Zayyat - was departing Cairo today; heading for New York - and the U.N.; there to head ~~up~~ an expected Arab drive - to force the expulsion of Israel from the world body. A spokesman for Egypt's President Sadat saying: "No state may commit the crime of murder deliberately - and be allowed to continue as a U.N. member."

VICKSBURG

At Vicksburg, Mississippi - the rain-swollen Mississippi River ~~simply~~ refused to quit today. So-called "channel surges" and accompanying waves - adding about two-and-a-half inches to an earlier crest of fifty-point-four feet; highest there - since Nineteen-Thirty-Seven. The rising waters - forcing an additional one hundred and fifty families to flee their homes.

Mississippi officials were hopeful, however - the worst may now be past. State Legislator C.B. Newman saying: "We'll get a few more inches rise - but if good weather prevails, if we don't get any more rain - the water should start receding - slowly."

EUFULA

Army Staff Sergeant Thomas Davis - a former POW and a black - was welcomed home today to Eufaula, Alabama. That's also the home town of Alabama's Governor Wallace - who was there heading up a giant reception. Governor Wallace appointing Sergeant Davis - an honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Alabama National Guard. He then told a mixed crowd of about a thousand: "We are going to realize the American dream of peace and prosperity for all Americans - regardless of who they are."

Sergeant Davis, for his part, saying: "Words can't express my happiness and gratitude." Adding that coming home - "seemed like being born again." The Sergeant later observed, what's more, that Eufaula had changed considerably - in the five years since he was last there. "It looks a lot more appealing" - said he - "than it did when I left."

ELLINGTON

Ellington Air Force Base near Houston, Texas - the scene today of the thirty-first reunion - of General Jimmy Doolittle's Tokyo raiders from World War Two. Of an original band of eighty men - fifty-three are still with us; and forty-four ^{were there} ~~of these~~ - taking part once more in their annual get-together.

General Jimmy - who is now seventy+six, ~~at~~ ^{was} taking a long look back ^{how} ~~that~~ Observing "history has been kind out of all proportion - for what the Tokyo raid actually accomplished." ^{Said Doolittle:-} ~~Adding~~ "It was one small operation - in all of World War Two." But Jimmy's modesty notwithstanding - there can be question ^Q The Doolittle raid on April Eighteenth, Nineteen-Forty-Two - only ten days after the fall of Corregidor ^{was} ~~clearly~~ the psychological turning point in the War in the Pacific.

NEW DELHI

For the Crown Prince of Sikkim - a flight today to New Delhi. Prince Tenzing Kunzang Jigme Namgyal - ~~one of the~~ central figures in the recent troubles in Sikkim. His departure from the Indian Protectorate - apparently clearing the way for some sort of compromise.

The Prince - later calling a press conference at his hotel. Telling of plans for a conference to be held in Sikkim - in Mid-May; a conference to be attended - said he - by representatives of the Himalayan kingdom's three major political parties. Till then, ~~said~~ ^{said} Tenzing ^{his father,} the Chogyal, "has asked the government of India - to take over."

TOKYO

A meeting of the Economic Conference for Asia and the Far East - has been in progress this week in Tokyo. Twice now - Red China walking out on policy statements by fellow members. The first - from Cambodia; the second - from South Korea. Red China's An Chih-Yuan - when it came his turn - also attacking a Russian-proposed Asian collective security program; calling this a Russian attempt - to seek "hegemony" in Asia.

At today's session though - the Red Chinese ^{stuck} ~~sticking~~ it out ^{to} the end. Listening to U.S. Ambassador Bernard Zagarin - discussing the world currency crisis. Next - Russia's A.E. Nesterenko; ^{said} ~~asserting~~ that "only a sick imagination" - could see a Russian plot in Asian collective security. Nesterenko also saying - with the Chinese clearly in mind: "We have a proverb in Russia - that he who speaks into the wind might have to wipe his own face." And far from walking out ^{— this with} An Chih-Yuan listening attentively, ~~throughout~~

ROME

as you've often been told, is
The city of Venice in Italy ~~is currently~~ sinking into
at the rate of
the Adriatic λ about four-tenths of an inch each year. At
that rate, destined to go the way of Atlantis - ~~and~~ ^{to} disappear
entirely by the year Two Thousand and Forty-Eight. Ah,
but now at last - the Italian Parliament to the rescue.
Italy's Senate granting final approval today - to a bill
providing for more than ~~Half-a-Billion~~ to save Venice.

First will come the construction of huge sea gates -
to close off the entrance to the Venetian lagoon ^{and canals,} ~~and~~ And then
a new aqueduct - plus a new sewage system. Whereupon
the famed Venetian canals will not only look pretty - we
are told - but also smell pretty.

LOBAMBA

The tiny nation of Swaziland ^{is} almost completely surrounded by the Union of South Africa. A British protectorate from the turn of the century - until ~~it was~~ granted ~~its~~ independence five years ago. Swaziland then becoming a constitutional monarchy - ^{which} ~~but~~ apparently ~~it~~ failed to take.

At any rate, Swaziland's King Sobhuza the Second - addressing his people today from his royal estate at Lobamba. ~~The King~~ ^{ed} suspending Swaziland's Constitution - because of what he called "destructive elements" spurred on by, quote, "a foreign spirit of bitterness." He also assumed total personal power - with the backing of Swaziland's small army, which he created ^{only} ~~just~~ last month.

Sobhuza announcing all this - dressed in traditional lionskin robes and eagle headdress. The King further insisting - there was no crisis in Swaziland. His only purpose - said he - to give his people "full freedom and guaranteed peace and happiness."

SAN MARCOS

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A new national marathon kissing record - is reported today from Southwest Texas State University. Senior Justin Wallace and Junior Valerie Bolton - maintaining a single smooch for twenty-four hours and forty-five minutes; thereby besting the previous mark of twenty-four hours flat - set only last year at Notre Dame.

Indeed, a second couple at Southwest State - also breaking the old mark. Freshmen Mark Whiteman and Dede Larson - finishing a close second to the winning pair. And they might be going yet - we are told ^{- Bill -} except that Miss Larson came down with measles.

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MOSCOW

A story of marriage, Russian-style - is reported today in the Soviet newspaper Trud. Tractor driver Nazri Sobirov - taking a fancy to ^a local belle. Deciding to buy her - as his bride. ^{Nazri Sobirov} ~~Paying~~ her father - two rams, four bags of flour, three hundred yards of cloth, four hundred and forty pounds of rice, and fourteen hundred rubles. But the marriage lasting just three days - when the couple decided it was all a mistake.

When ~~The~~ bride ~~demanded~~ ^{ed} her freedom. ~~Her~~ new husband - ~~demanded~~ ^{ed the} return of his rams, rubles and so on. But what they both got - was a term in a Soviet labor camp. Trud explaining that wife-buying in Russia - is now illegal.