

Wed. October 18, 1972

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - another milestone in East West relations. The U S and Russia reaching agreement today - on a new comprehensive trade pact; in the process, settling at last - Russia's lend-lease debt from World War Two, with the official signing - later on at the State Department. Secretary of State Rogers - calling this "a very historic day for both countries." Officials adding that U S and Russian trade is now expected to hit a billion and a half within three years; in other words - nearly triple its present volume.

PORTAGE PASS

Along the coast of Alaska - the search for the missing plane goes on - the plane carrying house Majority Leader Hale Boggs - Alaska's congressman Nick Behich - and two others. Today that part of the state was covered by freezing drizzle, also heavy fog; making aerial search extremely difficult. For the first time a ground team moving in - a team of ten rangers hiking into the rugged Portage Pass country east of Anchorage, where the plane was last heard from.

The Air Force has had some forty planes, with more than a hundred Alaskan private pilots taking part.

SAIGON

General Abrams, and then, Henry Kissinger today arrived at Saigon. This leading to increased speculation - that an over-all political and military review is now in progress, which could mean - a peace settlement imminent. But we are warned against undue optimism. Hanoi saying so far no break through.

HUNG NGHIA FOLLOW SAIGON

On the fighting front - South Vietnamese troops occupied an area around Hung Nghia, twenty miles northeast of Saigon. This enabling them to repair and re-open ~~ing~~ vital Highway One. Hundreds of trucks that had been stalled some as much as five days - finally getting through to the capital with badly needed fresh produce, gas and oil and so on.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - a rush to adjournment today. The House joining the Senate - in overriding the President's veto of that twenty four point six billion dollar clean water bill. The House also joining the Senate - in killing the President's proposed federal spending ceiling. While House and Senate conferees - finally approving a compromise highway bill.

This last - including three point four billion for mass transit programs; but none of the money to come from the highway trust fund which remains inviolate.

SPYING

The White House again - ^{an} attempting today to refute Democratic allegations - with regard to political spying and sabotage. Press Secretary ~~Ron~~ Ziegler saying: "No one here at the White House ever directed such activities - because, if they had, they would no longer be at the White House." Ziegler adding that this "is activity - we do not condone."

Next question: Could the White House statement then be called - "a denial." To which Ziegler replied: "No - it is a statement of confidence."

It was also announced that the President will make ~~his~~ his third radio political broadcast this weekend instead of tomorrow. - ~~as originally planned.~~ Subject: Domestic issues.

FAMILIES

Elsewhere in Washington - President Nixon was endorsed for re-election today - by the ~~outgoing~~ out-going head of the largest organization of families of P O W's. Mrs. Carol Hanson of El Toro, California, not only praising the President's Vietnam policies - but also saying she was ~~disgusted~~ disgusted with those of Senator McGovern. The latter's proposals, said she - "would dishonor this country - and abandon the men like my husband to the mercy of an enemy that has shown no compassion."

ANAHEIM

At Anaheim, the seventy-fourth annual conference of the league of California cities.

Main speaker - ~~■~~ Attorney General Richard

~~■~~ Kleindienst; challenging the McGovern record - on crime legislation, drug abuse, ~~xxx~~ pornography and amnesty; also, his support of Daniel Ellsberg.

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Kleindienst coming to the conclusion that the election of ~~Senator~~ McGovern -- would be a disaster for this country's drive against crime.

DETROIT

On the Democratic side - Senator

McGovern was again campaigning today in Detroit.

There charging that President Nixon's proposed federal spending ceiling - would lead to drastic cuts in social welfare programs; therefore, calling the President's proposal - "harsh and inhumane." And further - said he - "a cynical device to draw public attention - away from the pain and cost of the mis-management of our economy for four long years."

In a letter to the White House McGovern also calling again for a series of TV debates with President Nixon. He even offered to pay for them himself. But the White House ignoring this challenge - the same as all the rest.

BELFAST

In Northern Ireland - militant protestants today ~~have~~ called off their forty-eight hour "war" against the British Army. A spokesman for the Ulster defense association saying: "Both the army and ourselves - agreed to try and cool it."

Adding: "Our war with the British Army - is over."

BASS COTTON BOWL

This past weekend I happened to be in Dallas where I attended what is always one of the most exciting games of the year. With oil tycoon Dick Bass and family, I barely survived the gridiron clash between the Texas "Long horns" and the Oklahoma "Sooners."

I suspect this is as emotional a game - and as colorful - as you will ever see, anywhere. Nearly eighty-thousand super-charged fans jammed the Cotton Bowl. The weather, hot! The crowd in picturesque costumes - red hot pants and big hats - one vast bowl of color.

L B J and daughter sat behind us, so I couldn't very well keep turning around to see what effect all the excitement had on him. His team lost. But there was a tall Texas lawyer - Jack Vaughn - sitting beside me and when the University of Oklahoma's powerhouse defense team almost pushed the University of Texas Longhorns off the field in the final quarter, Bill, I thought my lanky neighbor would have apoplexy.

SACRAMENTO

*From Sacramento - a story today telling
of an ~~attempt~~ attempt at door to door vote hunting -
by Ethel Kennedy and Eunice Kennedy Shriver.*

*The two Kennedy women - calling at six houses -
without an answer. And then - at number seven -
a brief encounter with an elderly woman - who
refused to accept any McGovern-Shriver campaign
literature. I think I've already read this, said
she.*

*As they ~~campaigners~~ turned to leave,
Ethel Kennedy remark^{ed}~~ing~~: "It's better - when
they're not at home."*