

Thursday, October 31, 1974

SIoux CITY

President Ford was off and running today on a three day campaign tour; his final foray - prior to election.

First stop, Sioux City, Iowa; where he promised to protect American dairymen and cattle men - from government subsidized foreign competition. The President adding that farmers - "are more likely the victims of inflation than its cause." "By their efficiency and ever increasing productivity" - he went on - farmers are actually "staving off what might be an even more serious round of inflation."

Next stop - Los Angeles; for a G O P rally - later tonight.

LONG BEACH

Former President Nixon remains in critical condition tonight. Doctors at Long Beach Hospital = saying he's still losing a little blood. Adding, however, ^{that} his vital signs are stable - and his spirit and mental attitude - excellent. They also say: "He is alert - ^{aware of} ~~he is oriented to~~ everything going on around him - and ~~he is~~ cooperative."

WATERGATE

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SIMON

From Treasury Secretary ~~William~~ Simon - a not so veiled warning ~~today~~ to U S food processors and grocers. Simon noting that retail food prices ~~have~~ have increased by six percent while farm prices were actually declining by nine percent. "With times as difficult as they are" said he - "we cannot permit one segment of the economy - to reap unjust enrichment at the expense of everyone else."

ISLAMABAD

Secretary of State Kissinger , now in Islamabad met for more than two hours today - with Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The two failing to reach a final decision - on Pakistan's request for a resumption of arms shipments. A joint statement announcing, however, ^{that} the U S will supply Pakistan - with about a hundred thousand tons of surplus wheat.

MANCHARGANJ

The scene: A crowded ~~and~~ passenger car on a speeding train nearing Mancharganj station in India. A burning cigarette butt is carelessly thrown away landing on a bundle filled with firecrackers. The result a flash fire sweeping through the car in an instant.

~~Result~~ *Railway officials later reporting at least forty dead - as well as some thirty injured.*

GANGTOK

At Gangtok in Sikkim ⁱⁿ a series of violent demonstrations ~~in the past month~~. Students and others ^{have} ^{been} protesting India's plan to take over the Himalayan kingdom. Finally forcing New Delhi - to send in federal police. So now - a new tact. More than five thousand Sikkimese - signing a formal petition, urging Sikkim's King ^{— the Chogyal —} Palden Thondup Namgyal - to defend what they call Sikkim's separate international identity.

At the same time, a letter from the King addressed to New Delhi ^{was} released today to the Indian press. In ^{it he} ~~the King~~ saying Sikkim has never been a part of India - "geographically, ethnically, or racially." ^{has so far} ~~About~~ as close as he ~~can~~ come - to defying the Indian take over.

SEOUL

Nearly two thousand South Korean students -
were staging ~~mass~~ mass demonstrations today in
Seoul. For the first time in their current series
of protests ~~the students~~ demanding the ouster of
South Korea's President Park Chung Hee. They're
also urging a restoration of more democratic rule -
an end to suppression of the press - and an end to
police surveillance on campus.

TREASURY

From the U S Treasury Department - a new set of ~~new~~ regulations aimed at keeping tabs on foreign investments in U S companies. This apparently the result of a huge influx of Arab oil money. The figures so obtained - to serve as a "bench mark" for foreign investment. Beyond which some sort of freeze may be called for.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - ^{The First lady today} ~~Betty Ford was able to~~ resumed

~~today~~ her official role. ~~as First Lady.~~ Mrs. Ford

~~was~~ serving punch and cookies and a coin apiece -

to six children taking part in the Annual Unicef

Halloween Fund drive. These including a witch, -

a ghost, and a miniature dracula; the vanguard of

millions of trick or treaters now at work across the

nation.