

Friday, January 19, 1973
Allan Jackson

PEACE

In Washington, Paris, Saigon, Bangkok - practically everywhere, it seems - peace was in the air today. One and all - predicting an imminent cease-fire in Vietnam. And a Saigon newspaper with close ties to President Thieu - going so far as to say that it will take effect in less than two weeks, on February Third.

Officially though - the U.S. still refusing to confirm or deny the rumors. While President Nixon met today with Henry Kissinger - in preparation for, hopefully, the final round of talks next week in Paris. The President then putting in some finishing touches on his inaugural address - scheduled for delivery tomorrow.

The White House continues to insist - that the President will not deal directly with Vietnam negotiations. Observers add, however, that he is expected to stress - the need for "conciliation" in the post-war period, by both sides.

SALUTE

While all this was going on - at a nearby art gallery - "a salute to America's heritage;" an affair arranged by President Nixon - to say "thank-you" to the ethnic Americans who played such an important role in his reelection. Co-hosts at the celebration - included Sammy Davis Junior, Lionel Hampton and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

Tonight - the President is personally getting into the act; escorting members of his family - to three separate concerts at the new John F. Kennedy Center.

PROTEST

Elsewhere in Washington - anti-war protestors were gathering today for what they called - "an inauguration of conscience." Protest organizers say they expected to draw - "tens of thousands" of demonstrators. But also, they pledging - there will be no violence.

Nevertheless - police and troops standing by.

The Executive Director of the Inaugural Committee, Jeb Magruder, further told newsmen - he feels that "demonstrations are not appropriate at this time."

PENTAGON

Over at the Pentagon - Melvin Laird today held his final news conference as Secretary of Defense; discussing the possibility of an imminent cease-fire in Veitnam - but refusing to predict how long it might last. Said he: "The war in Southeast Asia has been going on for thirty years - and as far as my ability to forecast peace there for the next five to ten years - well, I would never make that kind of prediction."

Laird insisted, however, that the Nixon Doctrine in Southeast Asia - consisting mainly of Vietnamization - has been a success. "The South Vietnamese are now in a position" - said he - "where they can handle their own security problems." Laird also said that he agrees with Senators Stennis and Goldwater - that the South Vietnamese must fully back any cease-fire. If not - said he - "they would have a very, very difficult time - getting any further support from the United States."

BUSH

George Bush, late of the U.N. - today became the new Republican National Chairman. His selection by President Nixon - was formally ratified at an inaugural eve meeting of the Republican National Committee.

Bush promptly pledged "hands off" - with regard to the 'Seventy-Six Presidential race; saying he intends to concentrate instead - on electing GOP candidates this year and next. Bush going on to say: " I do not intend to be some kind of ideological spokesman - for all Republicans." Adding: "It is our party that believes in Federalism - and it is our party that welcomes diversity."

Bush's predecessor as Republican chairman - was also there. Robert Dole earlier read aloud his official resignation - which he said with a smile had been "revised by the White House." And then - a gesture of party unity. Dole saying "in all candor" - that he supports Richard Nixon Why? Because - said he - "I think he is right; right for America - and right for those we need to bring into our party."

ATLANTA

Unless you're one of the lucky ones, you already know this next - but, anyway, London flu is still sweeping the country. Official confirmation - coming from the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta; which said today that London flu has reached epidemic proportions - in Boston, Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Government doctors added that flu-related deaths - are also on the increase; now totaling more than three hundred and forty - since the first of the year.

For what it's worth though - Russia is in far worse shape than we are. The current Soviet flu epidemic - reportedly hit about seventy thousand persons a day in Moscow; about fifty thousand more - in Leningrad. And there as well as here - no end is yet in sight.

COMMERCE

The U. S. gross national product - according to figures announced today: More than One-point-one Trillion This - as you know - the total output of all U. S. goods and services; representing an increase of six-and-a-half per cent in real growth - or three times that of the previous year; and thus - a signal for Administration rejoicing.

Chairman Herbert Stein of the President's Council of Economic Advisers - said this was the best showing in ten years; also, noting that the rate of inflation - was the lowest in six years. Stein adding that everything considered - Nineteen-Seventy-Two was "a remarkably good year for the economy."

In a newspaper interview published in Tel Aviv - Israeli Premier Golda Meir discussed today her recent visit with Pope Paul; saying there were tense moments - especially at the start.

Madame Meir quoting the Pontiff as having said - "it was hard for him to understand why the Jewish people, who are supposed to act mercifully, respond in their country with such severity." She added that she herself then told the Pope - that her first memory of life was that of "the pogrom in Kiev" in her native Russia.

"When we were merciful and when we had no homeland and when we were weak" - Madame Meir continued - "then they led us to the gas chamber." "I told him" - she added - "we had sworn that they would never again lead Jews to the gas chamber; and we would do everything in our power - so that there will be no more Jewish refugees."

Madame Meir also said she couldn't help thinking - "she was saying these things to a man of the cross;" "to a

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**man" - said she - "who stands at the head of the church -
under whose symbol the Jews were killed through all the
generations."**

WALLED LAKE

*From Walled Lake, Michigan - the story of a new
topless go-go dancer; with measurements - forty, thirty-
two, thirty-six; as you may have guessed by now - a man -
by the name of Dick Currin; who explains that he started it
as a gag - but women customers like it so much he just
can't quit.*

*The twenty-year-old Currin also saying: "I'm not
an ape - but I have hair on my chest." Adding: "If the
ladies want more- I'll buy a toupee." --for the chest?*

Now for Lowell Thomas - this is Allan Jackson.