

The Senate today - by a large margin - approved legislation that would raise social security benefits by from ten to fifty-six percent for more than twenty-five-MILLION Americans. Payroll taxes would be increased to finance the boost. The House already has approved a flat five percent pension increase - but Ways and Means Committee Chairman Wilbur Mills says it's "utterly and humanly impossible" to reach a compromise with the Senate before congress adjourns. He promised, however, that Congress ^{will} approve a boost in social security benefits by February.

ECONOMY

A government composite index of eight leading economic indicators increased by one percent during November - giving rise to speculation that the sluggish national economy may show some new life within a few months. However, the predictions are tempered somewhat by a decline in corporate profits. And the nation's exports exceeded imports during November by about four-hundred-thousand dollars - the smallest favorable trade balance this year. The New York Stock Market scored its best gain today in almost a month. Turnover was heavy and shortly before the final bell the Dow Jones Average was ahead by nearly ten points.

Military spokesmen in Saigon say a major Communist ground attack just inside Cambodia was stopped by South Vietnamese troops today - with more than seventy enemy troops reported killed. The Communists, however, continued to attack the highways leading into Phnom Penh at several different points. In Saigon, a mob of about one hundred South Vietnamese students burned an American military bus. No one was hurt in the incident and police used tear-gas to disperse the students.

MIDEAST

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today ruled out any extension of the current mideast ceasefire beyond February Fifth unless - he says - serious progress is achieved in the U-N peace talks. Thus, Sadat called on his people to prepare themselves for a resumption of hostilities with Israel in the event peace proposals fail. At the same time, Israeli Premier Golda Meir appealed to Egypt's new leaders to join in a sincere effort to reach an agreement - although she took a tough bargaining position which rules out a restoration of Israeli's former borders.

President Nixon will go on nationwide television again Monday night in a question-and-answer session with four network correspondents. The White House announcement said the President will present his views in "perspective and depth." Asking questions on the program - which was initiated by Mister Nixon himself- will be Eric Severeid of C-B-S - John Chancellor of N-B-C - Howard K. Smith of A-B-C - and Nancy Dickerson of the Public Broadcasting Service.

3:15

WASPS

Over the years, quite a few sociologists have claimed that the most privileged group of people in America are the WASPS - the alphabetical word for White Anglo-Saxon Protestants. But U-P-I correspondent Dick West doesn't entirely agree - he says even a Wasp has no guarantee of equal treatment - that a person can be a Wasp and still be subjected to various forms of discrimination. For example, female Wasps ~~and~~^{IN} the Women's Liberation movement claim to have fewer advantages than male Wasps. Also, left-handed Wasps ~~endure~~ endure many inconveniences because so many things have been arranged to accommodate right-handed people. So, can we assume that the White Ambidextrous Male Anglo-Saxon Protestant is immune from prejudice? Not by a long shot, says West. Some bachelors, who have all of these credentials, will tell you they are treated unfairly by the income tax collectors. Fewer exemptions, the bachelors claim, doesn't exempt them from prejudice.

PHONES

Telephone company officials in Frankfurt, Germany, want to know who'll pay for thousands of long distance phone calls made by American soldiers during Christmas. The servicemen, somehow, got their hands on a list of civilian I-B-M employees who were authorized to make free calls from Germany to the United States. Some of the soldiers talked for more than an hour and the total bill could run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

EGYPTIANS

The life and times of the ancient Egyptian are very well preserved indeed in the Univeristy of Chicago's Oriental Institute. Its galleries and alcoves contain one of the world's largest and most important collections of objects from ancient Assyria, Babylon, Persia and most especially - Egypt. We learn that - contrary to a popular notion - the ancient Egyptian was not a morbid, melancholy individual who was constantly preoccupied with death. We also learn that the Egyptian women ground their own cosmetics on personal palettes made of slate. Utensils for personal care and grooming were abundant and, for the women at least, the mirror was just as indispensable as it is today. Mirrors, however, were then very expensive and whenever a feminine face needed touching up, a pool of water was a mirror good enough for even the vainest and fairest of them all. But all that, of course, was before the Age of Pollution.

THOMAS TAPE

Tim

Lowell Thomas is in Alaska, and tonight he
gives us a progress report on the mining of Alaskan
gold - BLACK gold, that is.

6:30

TAPE RUNS: 1:37

OUTCUE: So Long....

140
130
155

Thank you Lowell -
Now this is AL

See you soon

AS TAPE

Lowell Thomas is in Alaska, and tonight he
is a progress report on the mining of Alaskan
BLACK gold, that is.

6:30
TAPE RUNS: 1:37

OUTCUE: So Long....

ask you Lowell -
Now this is Al saw - good nite

explosion
hundred
A rescue
the explosion
history.