

Tues, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 71.

## CONSTRUCTION

President Nixon - declaring an inflationary emergency in the construction industry - today suspended for an indefinite period the legal requirement that prevailing union wages be paid on federal construction projects. Contracts already signed would not be affected by the order - but any new ones would. For the time being, at least, he ruled out a wage-price freeze as a means of combating the industry's inflation. ¶ The President's order means that cheaper non-union contractors will be able to bid for government construction projects - thereby holding down the wage price spiral. As of January, union construction workers in seven major trades in cities of one-hundred-thousand population or more received six-dollars-and-thirty-nine-cents an hour - eleven percent higher than the wages the previous year. Also, in a major shift of policy, the President asked Congress to continue his standby authority to impose wage and price controls should a national emergency arise.

**CALLEY**

In his second day of testimony at Fort Ranning, Georgia, Lieutenant William Calley said that on five different occasions, his company commander - Captain Medina - ordered him to kill Vietnamese women and children at My Lai. Calley further testified that he relayed these orders to his men and he himself joined in the firing into a ditch where men, women and children were, ~~huddled~~.

## INDO CHINA

Senate Democrats - acting as a group - today adopted ~~an unprecedented~~<sup>Q</sup> resolution - calling on President Nixon <sup>to</sup> <sup>^</sup> definitely withdraw all American forces from Indo China by the end of 1972. The resolution - approved by a vote of thirty-one to eight - has no legal standing - nor is it binding on any individual senator. It does, however, pledge Senate Democrats to work to "end the involvement in Indo China - seek withdrawal of all troops - and the release of all war prisoners."

In the fighting, another South Vietnamese base fifteen miles inside Laos is reported isolated by communist troops. An American spokesman at Khe Sanh on the Vietnamese side of the border said at least sixty U. S. helicopters have been destroyed or severely damaged in the Laotian fighting. Officially, the U.S. Command has admitted to fifteen shot down.

INDO CHINA - 2

The commander of South Vietnamese forces in Laos -  
General Lam - says his troops' greatest accomplishment  
so far is the cutting of a fuel pipeline which runs along  
the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

— 2 —  
Pres. Nixon is going to address  
the nation on Viet Nam, and on farm  
policy - at 11:00 A.M. Eastern time  
tomorrow morning.

## **DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE**

### **~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**

President Nixon sent a message to the Geneva Disarmament Conference today - proposing an immediate international agreement to ban the production and stockpiling of biological weapons. "To help achieve this goal," said the President, "the United States is ready to commit itself to full negotiations for a similar ban on chemical weapons."

VISITS

The Japanese Cabinet broke a century's old

precedent today by authorizing Emperor Hirohito to visit England and six European countries on a tour starting in September. For more than twenty-six hundred years, ~~the~~ *the* reigning ~~monarchs have been~~ *Michiko was* forbidden to leave Japan.

Hirohito - who is sixty-nine - and Empress Nagako - sixty-eight - will pay state visits to Britain, Belgium, and West Germany. They'll also visit Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The Royal couple will fly to Europe via the Polar Route - with a stopover at Anchorage, Alaska. It'll be the first time ~~the~~ *for a* Japanese monarch ~~to~~ *to* set foot on American soil.

*Vatican*

The Vatican announced <sup>o</sup> that Archbishop Agostino

Casaroli will leave for Moscow tomorrow to sign the treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons. It'll mark the first official visit to Russia by a high-ranking Roman Catholic prelate.

## DRAFT

Congress today heard a suggestion that the draft law be liberalized - granting the status of conscientious objector on the basis of "sincerity" - rather than religious belief alone. This suggestion came from Chairman Edward Hebert of the House Arms Services Committee, who says it would enable draft boards to define more clearly the definition of a conscientious objector. Hebert adds that such a law - if enacted - should also require an objector to spend three years in non-military service.

## SHARK

A hydrofoil boat collided with a large shark today in Manila Bay - injuring fourteen of the passengers on board - none seriously. Forty-four persons - many of them American tourists - and three crewmen were on the boat which came to an abrupt halt upon striking the huge fish. The shark - about twenty feet long and identified by its distinctive dorsal fin - was killed by the ~~collision~~<sup>impact.</sup>  
~~impact.~~

## CANNONBALL

The Wabash Cannonball - one of America's most famous trains - is scheduled to make its last run on May first! but that'll be changed if Justin Brown has anything to say about it. From his home in Glendale, California, Brown is organizing a campaign to save the Cannonball and make it a part of Railpax - the proposed national railroad system.

*Wabash*  
He points out ~~the~~ Cannonball provides the only direct rail passenger service between Detroit and St. Louis - also stopping at many points along the way. Already he's

organized a Wabash Cannonball Club - and a letter-writing campaign to members of Congress. Justin Brown - a railroad

ecologist - trying to save *Wabash* The Cannonball. There used to be a popular song Warren - "on the Wabash Cannonball" - how does it go?

## PANCAKE

Flipping her flapjack in a skillet three times as she ran, Mrs. Barbara Rinehart dashed down the icy streets of Liberal, Kansas, today - winning for America supremacy over England in international pancake racing. Mrs. Rinehart's time for the four-hundred-fifteen yard course was sixty-seven-and-seven-tenths seconds. Overseas in Olney, England, nineteen-year old Ruth Faulkner won the English leg of the race over a similar course - racing the distance in sixty-eight seconds - which wasn't fast enough to win all the marbles - ~~of~~ I mean <sup>the</sup> pancakes.