

Pope Paul versus birth control - part two. The Pontiff announcing plans today to issue "in due time" - a second clarifying pronouncement on artificial means of contraception. This - in response to criticism of his earlier pronouncement. Criticism - said he - that has assumed tones and aspects "almost of revolt and challenge."

In an apparently related move - the Pope also summoned Roman Catholic Bishops - to a world synod next October, at the Vatican. Only the second - in church history. Reason - said he: "To ensure better cooperation and more fruitful contacts - with the Holy See."

LONG BINH

By the way, Christmas in Vietnam is enlivened again this season - by a number of diverse visitors. Among them, Archbishop Terence Cooke of New York - Evangelist Billy Graham - also, Bob Hope. The latter launching his annual Christmas tour today - at Long Binh. Arriving by plane - a C-One-Thirty - that lost one of its engines en route.

Was the troupe worried? - somebody asked. "I wouldn't know" - said Bob Hope - "I went under the bunk." Next question: At age sixty-five - doesn't he ever get tired? "Never - I'm a salt tablet with legs" - said Bob Hope. Adding: "Actually, I planned to spend Christmas in the States this year - but I can't stand Violence."

NEW YORK

The new Mr. and Mrs. David Eisenhower - off on their honeymoon today at a top secret location. The only clue to their whereabouts - we hear - is the fact they both packed a lot of warm clothing.

As for the father-of-the-bride - Richard Nixon taking off from New York - headed for his first real vacation in months at Key Biscayne.

What about his recent bout with the flu? "The wedding cured that" - said Richard Nixon.

ANVERS ISLAND

Latest on Max Conrad - comes today from America's Falmer Station on Anvers Island in the frigid Antarctic. The famed "flying grandfather" - arriving at that lonely outpost over the weekend. There priming his tiny plane for another take-off - tomorrow morning, weather permitting.

Next stop: Byrd Station - near the South Pole. About two thousand miles away - across a vast, frozen wasteland. Perhaps the most dangerous leg of his daring attempt to fly solo - around the world - by way of both poles.

PARIS

On the peace front - Paris - still more jockeying for position today. With the chief spokesman for the Viet Cong - flatly refusing face-to-face negotiations with the present South Vietnamese government. Tran Buu Kiem asserting that - Saigon "represents no one."

Meanwhile, the guns of war were partially silenced today - in Vietnam itself. A Viet Cong Christmas truce - taking effect early Tuesday, Vietnamese-time; with an Allied cease-fire - to follow shortly. The possibility of course - that this truce will be violated somewhere along the line - the same as all the rest.

ASCOM CITY

Ascom City, South Korea - those eighty-two freed crewmen of the Pueblo were rushed through medical examinations today. In the words of the skipper - Commander Lloyd Bucher - safe at last from "the most concentrated form of terror" they had "ever dreamed possible." Those who can make it - (hopefully, all -) headed for joyous reunion with their families tomorrow, in San Diego.

Indeed, wives and children of the freed men - also, mothers, fathers, fiancées, friends and so on - even now pouring into San Diego. A Navy officer reporting: "It looks like there will be someone there - to meet every man."

SPACE

For the first time since Genesis - man cuts the umbilical. Apollo-Eight Astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders - breaking their last remaining ties with Mother Earth today. Flashing suddenly, perfectly "out of this world" - and on into the "moon's sphere of influence." First human beings - ever to hurdle the so-called "great divide" of interplanetary space.

At almost the same time - the three astronauts beaming back pictures of the earth - whose clutches they had just escaped. Command Pilot Frank Borman telling millions of viewers: "You're looking at yourselves - as seen from a hundred-and-eight thousand miles out in space."

Next up - if all goes well: A braking maneuver in a few hours - that will place the Apollo-Eight in lunar orbit. Another giant step - in man's conquest of space.

WASHINGTON

One of America's veteran newscasters - dead in Washington. Raymond Swing - perhaps better known to millions as Raymond Gram Swing - passing away in his sleep. He was eighty-one.

Raymond Gram Swing - beginning his career as a newsman in Cleveland; later becoming a foreign correspondent - before he switched to radio. His news commentaries first broadcast by the BBC and CBS - then Mutual and ABC. His last assignment - with the Voice of America.

CLEVELAND

On the medical front again - a story today from Cleveland; reporting results of a ten-year study - on the incidence of childhood leukemia. Showing apparently that children of the well-to-do - are far more susceptible to this dread disease than children of the poor.

Reason - hard to tell - since nobody knows as yet the cause of leukemia. However, the study seems to support a theory - that leukemia is a virus disease. Doctors noting that children of the poor - are often lacking in proper medical attention; which means they must rely on their own recuperative powers - during run-of-the-mill virus infections.

Result - we are told: They develop natural immunities to all viruses - immunities that money just can't buy.

CATANZARO

After fourteen months of hearings - one of the biggest Mafia trials in history was finally ended today at Catanzaro, Italy. Of a total hundred-and-thirteen defendants - alleged members of rival gangs - forty set free for "insufficient evidence." The rest - seventy-three - guilty as charged; with sentencing immediate - their ^r terms adding up to more than two hundred years in jail.

Hardest hit - the opposing ringleaders - getting twenty-two and twenty-seven years apiece. Their crimes said to include murder, criminal conspiracy, armed robbery, kidnapping - also, body-snatching.