

February 2, 1970  
Fort Pierce, Florida

CAIRO

*Excitement in Cairo. Egypt's Colonel Nasser - making today his public statement in three months; his first address since he pledged to liberate occupied Arab territory - do it under a "sky blazing with fire and a sea of blood."*

*Only this time - it was the U.S. that came in for the heaviest attack. Nasser asserting that Washington and its policies - must shoulder the "greatest responsibility for what is going on in the Middle East - and what will take place there in the future;" for it is the U.S. - said he - which is giving Israel the "tools with which to perform its criminal role."*

## GOLAN HEIGHTS

*Meanwhile, Israeli and Syrian forces continue to hammer at each other - across that cease-fire line, so called, at the Golan Heights. Opposing planes, tanks and artillery doing most of the damage - in this the fourth straight day of battle. Observers calling it the heaviest fighting in that area since the end of open hostilities nearly three years ago.*

## SOVIET

*On the hopeful side, nevertheless - a flurry of activity today on the European diplomatic front. With Soviet envoys in London and Paris - calling on British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and French President Pompidou. Discussing - as one of them put it - "urgent and important questions." This raising speculation that the Russians are perhaps initiating at last - a new Middle East peace offensive.*

SAIGON

*In Vietnam - an order today barring U.S. troops from the streets of Saigon. The U.S. Command attempting to head off Viet Cong terror attacks - timed to coincide with the Tet lunar new year holiday. This following a sharp increase in the tempo of fighting - now the heaviest in weeks.*

*A later development: South Vietnamese President Thieu announcing tonight - an amnesty covering more than thirteen hundred political prisoners. Adding that "from now until Tet" - starting this Friday - the government "will give amnesty to even more prisoners." However, he did not mention any plans for a Tet cease-fire - apparently saving that <sup>for</sup> a final decision later in the week.*

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW SAIGON

*Here at home - the White House was asked for comment today - on a weekend Senate report casting doubt on our ability ever to fully "Vietnamize" the war. White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler - replying that a special White House team has itself just returned from Vietnam. Its members to meet with the President as soon as possible - to discuss this self-same "Vietnamization" process.*

*Zielger emphasized - the program "is progressing well;" the only question at present - said he - how to make it work better.*

## BUDGET

*Turning to domestic affairs - President Nixon today unveiled his much-ballyhooed new budget for fiscal Nineteen-Seventy-One. A Two Hundred-point-Eight Billion Dollar document - biggest ever; calling for public ~~contrib~~ contributions of Two point-Two Billion over last year. The added funds - to come from increases in Social Security taxes, user taxes and postal rates.*

*And wherewill it all go? Programs reflecting a series of "hard choices" - said the President; but, above all, programs signaling a shift in the nation's priorities - from war to peace. This budget - he added - "one that we can not only defend - but one which will provide adequate funds, in this period when we must fight inflation, for programs the government is" - and must be - "involved in."*

## SUPREME COURT

*Another Monday - another big decision day at the U.S. Supreme Court. Including a verdict approving a proposed merger - involving five Western railroads.*

*The new system - to be called the Great Northern Pacific and Burlington; and it will boast more than twenty-six thousand miles of track - ranking it right up there with the giant Penn-Central. And may give even better service!*

*A second case - involving Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell; who is turned down - at least, for now - in his efforts to win some back pay from the Ninetieth Congress from which he was excluded. Instead, Powell's claim was referred back to a lower court - for further consideration. This having the additional effect of forestalling again - a possible showdown between the legislative and judicial branches of government.*

SENATE

*Elsewhere in Washington - the Senate Judiciary Committee resumed its hearings - on the qualifications of Supreme Court nominee G. Harrold Carswell. Hearing today from a government attorney - Norman Knopf; who said the Judge was "extremely hostile" - during the course of a Nineteen-Sixty-Four civil rights case. The witness going on to tell of "a long, strict lecture - about Northern people coming down and meddling and arousing local people." Adding that, indeed, the Judge was generally considered "an obstructionist" where civil rights was concerned.*



UTRECHT-VATICAN

In Holland/especially and elsewhere in Europe -  
an attempt today to play down Pope Paul's remarks  
yesterday on priestly celibacy. Dutch prelates meeting  
at Utrecht - insisting there is still room for discussion.  
Asserting, what's more, that the Pontiff's statement -  
addressed to an informal gathering - does not necessarily  
constitute a reply to, quote, "the anxieties they have  
placed before him."

However, a Vatican spokesman later stress<sup>ed that</sup> ~~ing~~ the  
Pope really meant it - when he ruled out even a discussion  
of priestly celibacy. Adding that the Pope's statement  
was made "as head of the Catholic Church - the Universal  
Pontiff," and thus represents <sup>the</sup> ~~his~~ final word on the  
subject - no matter where he said it.

LONDON

*Here's one - perhaps of special interest at Johns Hopkins. A London magistrate today tossing out a divorce case - filed by fashion model April Ashley. Judge Roger Ormrod - who is also a licensed physican - ruling that Miss Ashley is still a man - despite a sex-change operation ten years ago; hence, the "lady's" marriage to the scion of a noble British family - null and void from the outset.*

*As for Miss Ashley - nee George Jamieson - her own reaction to all this was a prompt notice of appeal. The plaintiff then flouncing off - wearing an elegant blue velvet maxi coat - also, an expensive fur hat. An appealing sight - in the eyes of some - so we are told - whether a he er a she.*

## HANDWRITING

*By the way, the President - in signing his budget message - disclosed today that he had just received a letter from an Iowa school teacher; letter commenting on the way he signed his name - in that television veto of last week. The writer giving the President - a "C" in penmanship; in the process - opening an old wound.*

*The President recalling that one of the most mortifying experiences of his life - was the time he received an "F" in penmanship way back in the first grade. The President adding with a smile - he guessed he "never had learned to write."*