

December 31, 1970
Allen Jackson

Good evening...

The Ninety-First Congress is not going to have a very happy new year. It's still hung up on the controversy over funds for the S S T - the supersonic transport plane - and has agreed to come back to thresh out the matter Saturday - day after New Year's Day. Then it appears a compromise will be possible - to enable the Senate to finish most of it's work before it runs out of existence by law - on Sunday.

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President Nixon today signed into law a bill that will tighten Federal control over so-called "one-bank holding Companies." The new law - regarded one of the most important pieces of banking legislation since the Depression Thirties - gives the Federal Reserve Board jurisdiction over all holding companies with total assets of about two-hundred-fifty-BILLION - which comprises about half the nation's total bank assets. The President also signed the new law which requires the auto industry to produce an engine virtually emission-free - the deadline being Nineteen-Seventy-Six. Senators and Congressmen from both parties were invited to the White House ceremony but Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine - chief sponsor of the bill and a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination - was NOT among them.

(In some of 1970 first debate the auto industry)

The Senate voted down the President's plan to put a BILLION-and-a-HALF dollars into school districts under court orders to desegregate. And the House completed

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*congressional action on a measure that would provide
Federal workers three additional pay riases in the next
two years, with nearly automatic increases each year
thereafter. If the President signs the bill into law, an
immediate six percent raise for nearly four-MILLION
Federal civilian and military personnel will be effective
tomorrow.*

An authoritative Egyptian newspaper editor

says there's real danger that a renewal of the mideast war could lead to a military conflict between the United States and Russia. The warning was sounded by Mohammed Hassaneib Heikal - editor of the semi-official newspaper "Al Ahram" - and a close associate of the late President Nasser.

HIJACKERS

Acting on orders which may have come from the Kremlin, a Soviet Appeals court today commuted the death sentences for two Leningrad Jews, convicted of plotting to hijack an airliner and fly to Israel. Their sentences were reduced to the maximum Soviet prison term of fifteen years. The commutations came exactly one week after the two men were sentenced to death by a firing squad. Nine other defendants in the case drew prison terms of up to fifteen years - although three of them reportedly were given reduced sentences.
Today

Those had their

sentences

The United States ^{HAS JUST} ~~has~~ entered the second
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decade of its involvement in the Vietnamese War - the
longest war in America's history. The first ten years
ended today with a shaky New Year's ceasefire in effect and
a resumption of American air-strikes against Communist
supply lines in Laos. The U-S Command in Saigon also
released its weekly casualty toll, /showing that forty-one
more Americans died in combat during the week ending last
Saturday - making a total of forty-four-thousand-two-
hundred-eight combat deaths since the American involvement
^{to 10 years ago}
began. More than two-hundred-ninety-three-thousand U-S
troops have been wounded.

In Cambodia, a South Vietnamese tank unit and a
group of Cambodian volunteers, attired in black pajamas
similar to those worn by the Viet Cong, /battled each other
by mistake today - with each side reporting one casualty.

OKINAWA

About two hundred U-S Marines were forced to cancel a scheduled firing drill on Okinawa today when civilian demonstrators entered the target range to protest. Four of the Okinawans were arrested by American MP's, but were later released. It was the second confrontation between U-S troops and Okinawans within the past two weeks. Tear gas was used on December Nineteenth to disperse a mob of three-thousand who burned American vehicles and broke into an Air Force base.

MINE

The U-S Bureau of Mines says the coal mine
in Hyden, Kentucky - in which thirty-eight were killed
yesterday - was closed down by Federal inspectors for
three days last June because of safety law violations.



The National Space Agency announced today that two manned Apollo flights to the moon and two unmanned missions to Mars are on the American space itinerary for Nineteen-Seventy-One. The next moon mission is scheduled to lift off at Cap Kennedy on January Thirty-First - with spacecraft commander Alan Shepard and pilots Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell on board. Six months later in July, a second moon shot is scheduled. The Mariner launchings to Mars will take place ~~IN~~^{IN} May.

CONTEST

After years of scornful disdain for such matters, the Russians are getting enthusiastic over beauty contests. The current contest - called "Come on Girls" - is sponsored by a Moscow television station and six finalists have been chosen. But instead of displaying themselves in swim suits and evening dress, the girls wear "plain Jane" clothes and demonstrate their talents for performing such tasks as decorating a cake / - adjusting a T-V set / mending a doll's dress / and weighing a herring for a salad.

DRIVERS

Tokyo and Rome have their kamikazi auto drivers - and Saigon has MILLIONS of cyclists and motorcyclists weaving in every direction / making it virtually impossible to drive an auto through the streets. London, Paris and New York have their daredevil taxicab drivers, too - yet none can equal the men who drive the twelve-hundred buses in the city of Cairo, Egypt, says U-P-I Correspondent Ray Wilkinson. With rubber flapping from threadbare tires - engines belching smoke and flame / and overcrowded passengers hanging precariously from windows, the bus drivers go about their daily runs with a total disregard for both pedestrians and traffic. Police are generally ignored as both drivers and pedestrians steam through red lights and stop signs. Autos, menaced by an on-coming bus, duel with each other and with pedestrians in trying to get out of the way. And to this visible chaos is added the cacophony of thousands of auto horns being blown for NO obvious reason. The national driving test in Egypt - says Wilkinson

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- is more difficult to fail than pass. A person is only required to prove that he can drive a few yards in reverse - though police say many do fail by backing into parked cars.

THOMAS TAPE

Lowell Thomas, who's in Alaska tonight, has

this report about a rare and almost exotic bird.

TAPE RUNS: 1:32

OUTCUE: So long.....

Thank you Lowell
Now this is Al saying Good nite