

CAPE KENNEDY

Fri. Dec. 20-68,

At Cape Kennedy - all systems are - "go"
tonight -- for America's first attempt at a manned
"ring around the moon". Except for fuel to be added
later -- the Apollo Eight is ~~already~~ primed and ready;
also, the men who will fly her - astronauts Frank
Borman and Jim Lovell and Bill Anders; ^{as the} ~~the~~ final
count-down continues steadily toward planned blast off -
at seven~~ty~~-fifty-one tomorrow morning.

~~Barring unforeseen circumstance / the only
remaining threat to the flight is a question of weather.
But weather or no - said a Space agency spokesman -
as of ~~the~~ now we are "go" for the Apollo Eight mission.~~

PARIS

~~Paris again~~ - a dramatic meeting today,

With U S Chief negotiator Averell Harriman - conferring hurriedly with South Vietnamese Vice President Ky in an attempt~~ing~~ to smooth over a widening rift between Washington and Saigon. In the end though - apparently getting nowhere.

This in the wake of another Ky blast - carried in a Paris newspaper. ^{Ky} ~~The Vice President~~ quoted as saying he will never accept a U S negotiated peace - if it makes the South Vietnamese "slaves of the Communists." ~~By~~ Adding: "if the American's goal has changed - I myself would ask them to leave."

The latest: Hanoi tonight urging the U S to dump the present Saigon government, so that expanded peace talks - can finally get ~~no~~ under way.

NEW YORK

Our new man at the U N - a Democrat as ~~promised~~ ^{predicted} But, not Sergeant Shriver - as many had expected. Richard Nixon announcing today in New York the surprise appointment of Charles W. Yost - as next U S Ambassador to the world body.

In support of his choice - the President-elect noting that Yost is a veteran of thirty-three years in the U S Foreign Service, including six years as U S Chief deputy at the U N -- under Adlai Stevenson and later Arthur Goldberg. Nixon further stressing the need for a professional ~~diplomat~~ ^{at} diplomat [^] the ~~U~~ U N rather than a widely known political figure.

What about Shriver? He was considered - said Nixon; but it was finally decided he could better serve his country - by remaining in Paris. Vice President Humphrey, Senator McCarthy and others were also considered briefly - Nixon added, ~~But~~ in each case

- said he - "we reached the conclusion that it either
wasn't the right time or the right man for the job."

BANGKOK

For eleven American servicemen - the first day of Christmas arrived early today - at Bangkok. These eleven of the twelve G I's freed yesterday by Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk. On arrival in the Thai capital, receiving a stack each of Christmas presents from home, also two hundred apiece in back pay - not to mention some cholera and smallpox shots. Later boarding another jet enroute to a real Christmas with family and friends stateside.

Not so lucky - Specialist fourth class Earl Guernsey of Sacramento, California. Too weak to travel as yet - he remains at Phnom Penh for treatment of battle wounds.

SEOUL FOLLOW BANGKOK

Latest on the Pueblo crewmen - a story carried in the Saturday edition of two leading Seoul newspapers. Asserting that all eighty-two could be released by Monday - assuming there are no last minute hitches.

Here at home though, the U S State Department warns ^S~~ing~~ against premature optimism. ~~Suggesting it will take at least one more meeting - to wrap up a release agreement. With the wording of an American apology - apparently the last remaining~~ ~~is~~ bone of contention.

VATICAN

Pope Paul's Christmas message to the world

- by his own admission - filled with "sinister and disconcerting thoughts." The Pontiff ~~asserting~~ ^{saying} tonight ~~that~~ the very existence of humanity - is threatened by weapons of mass destruction. Adding that even if he survives Man seems bent on building a society concerned only with material well being; ~~and~~ lacking higher ideals, - ~~death to the groans of the poor - and torn by youthful rebellion and violence.~~ "We see with pain - said he - ~~"that historic, cultural and moral values are being~~ ~~lost with damage to the entire civil community."~~

~~The Pope went on to say though - that his observations were not intended to perturb the Christmas observance, but rather to strengthen it. To help men understand - as he put it - "the kingdom of this earth, a hope in human self-sufficiency" as expressed through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind.~~

NEIL STARR

Another of the giants of our time passed ^s
from the scene; ~~today~~ a man who was a legend right
around the world. ~~C. V. Starr~~ From a farm in the
Dakotas, with a ~~college~~ degree from the University of

C. V. Starr
California, entered the insurance world, and built
up an empire that brought him both fame and fortune,
~~made him famous almost everywhere.~~

His firm, International Underwriters, ~~was~~ often ^{referred to} ~~spoken~~
~~of~~ as the only rival of Lloyd's of London, ~~which~~ operated

^{in one} ~~in~~ hundred-and-twenty-eight countries.

Neil Starr
As a young man, ~~he~~ checked the insurance
map of the world, found ~~there was~~ less ~~sold~~ in the

Far East than anywhere, so ^{he headed for China and} there ~~he~~ started his empire.
^{the building of}

Quiet, soft spoken, a patron of the arts,

and of winter sports, his ~~generous~~ generosity ~~seemed~~

Nothing pleased him more
~~to know~~ almost no bounds. ^{than the opportunity to}
young people. He enjoyed their company, and in turn
^{he inspired them.}
The old cliché about the Almighty breaking

~~someone~~
the mold when he created ~~go and~~ was particularly

Singapore,

true in the case of C. V. Starr of Hong Kong, New York,
Stowe, Vermont, ~~York,~~ ~~the~~ ^{quiet} generous, dynamic American
~~York,~~ St. Anton, Austria, ~~and,~~ everywhere.

Whose home was
everywhere.

MADRID

The ranks of possible successors to Generalissimo Franco of Spain thinned by one more today. With the Spanish government, meaning Franco, expelling from that country - royal pretender Prince Carlos Hugo Bourbon.

This - we are told - ^{for} ~~is~~ unauthorized political activities. Leaving Prince Juan and his son Don Juan, sole contenders for the throne; if and when ~~Francisco~~ Franco clears the way for a restoration of the monarchy.

Now ready to ascend our throne
our own Don Juan - you, Warren.

BRIDE

For Julie Nixon and David Eisenhower -
the big day is fast approaching. Sunday at four -
New York's Marble Collegiate Church - a union of
two of the greatest names in American political life.

Even now - the groom to be is attending a
so-called "floating bachelor party". As for the bride
to be - a shower today in New York featuring a skit
by Julie's Smith College friends - built around the
"recipe for a perfect bride". That recipe:-

~~Ingredients including:~~ "A large amount of
common sense - a small amount of frivolity - a
generous helping of patience - a dash of pep - and
all the ~~wmox~~ humor you can work in". The directions
adding: "Mix well - and serve before wings sprout."

ATLANTA

Atlanta - a happy ending at last to that
Mackle kidnapping case. Pretty twenty year ~~and~~ *old*
Barbara Mackle - freed by her captors after her
father Robert Mackle - had paid half a million in
ransom. Meanwhile the F B I issuing kidnap warrants
for the alleged abductors. A young escaped convict
and his blond girl friend.