

Friday, March 23, 1973

SAIGON

In Vietnam - the U S filed a complaint today - with the North Vietnamese delegation to the joint military commission; a complaint couched in the strongest words the U.S. has yet used. General John Wickham charging the installation of enemy anti-aircraft missiles - in northernmost South Vietnam. Adding: "The U.S. protests this violation - and reserves the right to take necessary action."

Meanwhile, the scheduled weekend release of the last Vietnam POW's remains in doubt. As you know, the U.S. suspending troop withdrawals pending an accounting of prisoners held in Laos. The Communist side answering back - no troop withdrawals, no more prisoners released. At last report - a continuing stand-off.

KEY BISCAAYNE

At the Florida White House - Key Biscayne

President Nixon today eased federal restrictions on U S oil imports. The President specifying that future imports may exceed prescribed quotas on the grounds of exception^{al} hardship.

This - in the face of a growing energy crisis. The city of Atlanta - for one ^{is} threatened with a cut-off in mass transit service for lack of fuel.

GRAY FOLLOW KEY BISCAYNE

On another front - the President let it be known today - he still supports the nomination of L Patrick Gray to head the F B I. Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren saying: "We think he should be confirmed." Adding that the President has "no intention" - of withdrawing the nomination. "The expressions of support which are on the record - stand on the record," said he.

WATERGATE FOLLOW GRAY

Back in Washington - a former White House

aide was sentenced today - for his part in the

Watergate bugging incident. G Gordon Liddy getting

twenty years in prison - along with a fine of forty-

thousand bucks.

A second defendant - James McCord -

also scheduled for sentencing today. But winning at

least a week's ~~for~~ reprieve - on the ~~strength~~ strength of

a letter to the judge in the case. McCord telling

of "political pressure - to plead guilty and remain

silent." Offering now to "come clean" - in a private

meeting. The Judge saying okay - but no deals.

WASHINGTON

Washington again at the wind-up meeting of the new Democratic National Committee, heard today a call for party unity. This from House Speaker Carl Albert, who insisted that the Democrats real adversary - is the man in the White House. Albert adding this is especially true with regard to the nation's number one problem at the moment - soaring prices.

President Nixon is trying to lay the blame on Congress, said he - "when in truth the way he dilly-dallied has had more to do with inflation than all the appropriations Congress has made.

The Democrats later approving a fusion slate - consisting of twenty-five new members. National Democratic Chairman Robert Strauss observing: "The Democratic party is back in one piece."

MOSCOW

Moscow - the final session of a four day meeting of the Soviet American joint working group - on water pollution prevention. The two sides agreeing to conduct simultaneous studies in their native land - on water pollution control and sludge disposal problems and then - exchange results.

The Americans - to concentrate on the Delaware River; which runs nearly three hundred miles through the heavily industrialized eastern seaboard; and a second river - possibly the Ohio. The Russians - to concentrate on the Moscow River - which runs through the Russian capital and the Seversky Donets which runs through the Soviet Ukraine.

At the same time - U. S. and Russian scientists will conduct joint studies - at Lake Baikal in Soviet Siberia and the Great Lakes ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ the U. S. and Canada; which together contain about forty percent of the world's lake water. Also, at Lake Tahoe - on the California-Nevada border.

BANKS

Three of the nation's largest banks - refused today to bow to government pressure.

Manufacturers Hanover and Franklin National of New York and First Pennsylvania of Philadelphia

refusing to roll back a half a percent increase in

interest rates. Whereupon the giant Chemical Bank

of New York also increased ^{ed} its rates ^{by} the same

amount.

BEATLE

In the case of former Beatle John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono - you win one, you lose one. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service today granting Miss Ono a permanent resident alien status. But her husband was given sixty days to leave the country or be deported. This owing to a Nineteen-Sixty-Eight Conviction in his native England for possession of Hashish.

VATICAN

The hottest new book in Italy - "Sex In the Confessional," just off the Rome press. Its authors Norberto Valentini and Clara DiMeglio; who spirited their tape recorders into Roman Catholic churches throughout Italy; making more than six hundred fake "confessions" - in order to obtain Priests' views on topics such as Pre-marital sex, adultery, birth control and perversion and so on. Valentini summing up the advice they were given saying: "Five minutes before the marriage - nothing is allowed." Five minutes afterward everything is. His partner - Signorina DiMeglio - further explaining: "We wanted to start up a dialogue."

And now the latest: The Vatican reporting today that both have been excommunicated for "violation of the sacraments of penance." The pair to remain in ex-communication we are told 'till they make a real confession. Valentini promptly announcing plans - to write a second confessional." book. Which he intends to call he says, "Politics and the

LONDON

The mating game - British style - subject of a survey, results of which were disclosed today from London. Sociologist David Coleman reporting that nearly a third of the men responding - met their future wives in dance halls. ~~Others~~ The next most popular meeting places - in private homes, at work, in restaurants or pubs - and way way down the list -- in church. The oddest meeting of all - we are told - that of a couple who found each other when their cars crashed head-on. The study is also said to show that more than half of all British men marry girls from their own neighborhood - almost literally - the girl next door."

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TOMATO

Speaking of water, spring flooding continued today in the mid-south. The mighty Mississippi and its tributaries - inundating more than a quarter of a million acres in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas. And the village of Tomato, Arkansas now completely surrounded by water. Mrs. A.J. Mitchusson - who runs the Tomato general store - Bill - saying: "They're even bringing the mail - by boat." to Tomato or is it Tomáto?

SREMSKA MITROVICA

At Sremska Mitrovica in Jugoslavia the trial of a young man by the name of ~~Dr~~ Slobadan Visic; ~~accused~~ accused of biting off an ear of his good friend - Dane Zlatac -- during a drunken brawl. On the witness stand the defendant pleading: "Forgive me - please forgive me." The victim replying: "I can't - you made me ugly." Whereupon ~~Slobadan~~ Slobadan Visic whipping out a knife and cutting off one of his own ears - the two men departing the court room ~~friends~~^{pals} again. An eye for an eye - a tooth for a tooth - an ear for an ear and so it goes in Sremska Mitrovica, Jugoslavia; and so long until Monday....