

WHITE HOUSE
Wednesday, May 9, 1973

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the beginning of a new beginning; marked by the start of the count-down - for America's new sky lab space station; followed shortly by the start of a second count-down for the Sky lab's first three man ferry ship.

So far - so good. If it keeps up - the Sky lab is scheduled for blast off Monday; the ferry ship - a day later.

This - America's next great venture in space.

WHITE HOUSE

Yesterday you may recall ^{there was} a published report that the President had attempted to block the release of certain information -- dealing with the Daniel Ellsberg ~~case~~ case. Today ^{from} the White House ^{came} a flat denial. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler saying: "Any reference or suggestion made by anyone - that the President would have proceeded in any other way than to provide information to the court - is completely unfounded." Ziegler adding: "The fact of the matter is that material was provided to the court - at the direction of the President."

SENATE

For Elliot Richardson - a trip today to Capitol Hill; where the Senate Judiciary Committee began hearings on his nomination as Attorney General.

Topic A of course - Watergate and the naming of a special prosecutor. Richardson saying he has already compiled an extensive list - of prospective candidates. Adding that the name of his eventual first choice - must then be approved by former Chief Justice Earl Warren and the President's of the American Bar Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Richardson going on to say: "If the Senate does not concur - I would feel obligated to propose another selection."

ANNE

More on the same - from the highest ranking woman in the Nixon Administration. Presidential counselor Anne Armstrong saying: "The President has taken all steps necessary to get to the bottom of this - to let the chips fall where they may."

Mrs. Armstrong also saying: "There have been some wild charges in the news media - there has been the worst kind of innuendo; but there has not been one shred of proof that the President had anything whatsoever to do with Watergate." She added how she herself was "absolutely convinced he had nothing to do with Watergate."

GANGTOK

At Gangtok in the Indian protectorate of Sikkim - the Chogyal, or King, Palden Thandup Namgyal - bowing from pressure from New Delhi - has signed a document calling for the election of a new national assembly based on the principle of one man, one vote, also, calling for the appointment of a new chief executive - to be named by and responsible to India alone.

Thus an attempt to end a political crisis - lasting nearly a month; a crisis that spilled over into mob violence - forcing the Chogyal to summon Indian troops to restore order. Observers noting that he and his wife - former American New York girl Hope Cooke - are now, it would seem, little more than the figure-heads.

BEIRUT HAIFA

Another cease fire in Lebanon - the third in less than a week - went up in gun smoke today. Palestinian guerrillas hitting at Lebanese army positions in Southeast Lebanon - followed by a series of counter attacks against guerrilla strongholds.

VATICAN

At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul renews an old custom; proclaiming the year Nineteen-Seveny-Five - an official "holy year". Its theme - said he: "The interior renewal of man." Its goal he continued: "To give peace to all men."

This the twenty-fifth official "holy year" - since the custom was first started back in Thirteen Hundred. Each one - marking the successful completion of another quarter of a century. During holy years, the Church also granting special privileges to those who visit certain shrines. The Pope's announcement is expected to launch millions of pilgrimages - right around the globe.

HOUSE

Capitol Hill again - the House Ways and Means

**Committee began hearings today - on the administration's
new trade bill. The lead-off witness - Secretary of State
William Rogers says the administration hopes to negotiate
a new international trade agreement - just "as significant"
as the last Kennedy Round agreement. That one - said he -
"reduced trade barriers an average of thirty-five percent;"
with the result that world trade - has nearly doubled.**

**Rogers stressed, however, that U.S. negotiators -
"must have the same authority as their European and
Japanese counterparts;" for only then - said he - "can they
defend and further America's economic interests."**

REGISTRATION

**A month-long filibuster in the Senate -
was finally broken today. The Senate then passing
and sending to the House - a bill aimed at simplifying
registration procedures for Presidential and
Congressional elections. This by allowing eligible
voters to register - simply by filling out a postcard
form and mailing it in.**

MOSCOU

For Henry Kissinger - in Moscow - the
wind-up to four days of talks with Soviet leaders.
He then flew to London - for a brief parley with
Britain's Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Before he left ~~though~~ Kissinger described
his talks with Russians leaders as "very cordial."

The White House ~~says the~~ ^{says the} Kissinger's visit -
~~had taken~~ ^{took} place in a "friendly atmosphere."

Going on to note that "both sides ~~expressed~~ expressed
satisfaction - at the comprehensiveness and
constructiveness of the exchange of views that took
place." Whatever that means.

GENEVA

From the International Air Transport Association in Geneva ^{comes} a report ~~today~~ suggesting that aircraft hi-jacking may be passé. ~~At any rate,~~ only one attempted hi-jacking so far this year - and it failed to get off the ground; as compared with sixty attempted hi-jackings last year of which twenty-two were successful.

Why the sudden change? ~~With~~ the main reason - we are told - a step-up in security precautions, around the world, ^{and} on the ground. Officials noting where once it was fairly easy to slip a weapon or a bomb on board an aircraft - it is now virtually impossible.

WASHINGTON

There were a million accidents last year involving one or more bikes; nearly forty-thousand - in collisions with cars. The resulting death toll - more than eight thousand.

All this leading to a set of new bicycle safety standards proposed today by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These including a ban on hi-rise handle bars - hi-rise seats and sharp protrusions; also, calling for minimum braking standards - non-slip pedals - mandatory safety reflectors and so on. The FDA adding that said regulations would apply to all two wheelers - except "perhaps racing bikes."

MIAMI

Starting as ~~of~~today - Eastern Airlines

Pilot Corps will ~~now~~ consist of four thousand men -- and one girl. The latter - Barbara Barrett - age twenty-two; who has just been named - Eastern's first woman pilot.

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Miss Barrett's experience - including nearly three thousand hours of flying time; much of it - ~~now~~ flying cargo for Zantop Airways out of Detroit. Her next assignment - at Eastern's training base in Miami, learning to fly either the Lockheed-Electra or the Boeing 727.

Eastern further stressing - that Miss Barrett is qualified in every way. Admitting, however, they had to change at least one rule - to accommodate the new lady pilot - Eastern's height requirement cut to five-foot-six; which may be good news - for some men - too. Bill

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KATHMANDU

From Kathmandu in Nepal - another report on the ~~latest~~ latest ~~doings~~ doings in the high Himalayas. A team of six Japanese mountain climbers -- the so-called Sangaku Doshi Kai expedition -- succeeding in scaling twenty-six thousand forty-one foot Annapurna² Two. But a second Japanese team -- from the Sagamino Alpine Club - forced to abandon its assault on nearby Annapurna South. ~~At 30,~~ One up, one down.