

NIXON

Mon. Dec. 15-69

as you probably know,
President Nixon ~~went~~ on nationwide radio

and television tonight ~~and~~ announced that our military forces in ~~Vietnam~~ Vietnam will be reduced by another fifty thousand men by April fifteenth. This would bring the total announced reduction to a hundred and ~~fifteen~~ ^{ten} thousand troops since the time Mr. Nixon took office on January twentieth when our total troop strength in Vietnam was about five hundred and forty thousand.

Speaking from his White House office, the President told the nation: "This reduction is another orderly step in our plan for peace in Vietnam. It marks further progress in turning over the defense of South Vietnam to the South Vietnamese. It is another clear sign of our readiness to end the war and to achieve a just peace."

Still, the President was only "cautiously optimistic" about the situation, over all. With regret,

he reported no progress in the Paris peace talks -
but despite this, he promised to continue efforts to
achieve a negotiated peace. But he ruled out this
nation's acceptance of a Communist regime in Saigon.

And he told Hanoi that if they continue
their infiltration of South Vietnam the
consequences to them may be serious.
How we will handle such a problem
he of course didn't say

SENATE follow Vietnam

The Senate - expressing fears that the United States could be drawn into another war like Vietnam today approved a provision that would bar American combat troops from Laos and Thailand. The vote - taken after a secret ~~three hour~~ debate was seventy-two to seventeen, in favor of the restriction which was attached to the defense money bill.

VIETNAM

In Saigon American ^{our} military ^{people} ~~sources~~ are predicting a new wave of enemy attacks during the days immediately preceding Christmas. The period ~~now~~ includes three Vietnamese holidays, and ^{their} attacks ^{we} ~~are informed~~ ~~these sources say~~ may coincide with each ~~of them~~.

TP
~~Also~~ In Saigon, police again battled some ~~12000~~ two hundred Cambodian monks who used bricks and knives in a protest ^{over} ~~against~~ alleged discrimination against South Vietnam's Cambodian minority. Thirty police ~~were~~ were injured before tear gas ~~settled~~ ~~finally~~ restored order.

PANAMA

The overthrow of Panama's strong man -

General Omar Torrijos - came about because he refused

to share dictatorial powers -- ~~and~~ ^{and because he} also permitted two

known Communists to join the ~~Revolutionary~~ Panamanian

government. That's the explanation given by a national

guard officer - a spokesman for the military leaders

who carried out the bloodless coup yesterday while

Torrijos was in Mexico City - at ~~the~~ ^a race track. The

spokesman also said ^{Gen.} Torrijos would not be allowed to

return to Panama. - ~~The~~ ^{The} ~~communiqué~~ ^{communiqué} promises popular

elections next year.

MID EAST

Israeli bombing planes continued to strike
targets in ^{both} Egypt and Jordan - while an exchange of
tank and artillery fire rattled across the Jordanian
border. In Jerusalem, Premier Golda Meir announced
a new cabinet - the most notable edition being General
Ezer Weisman, who led the victorious Israeli air force
in the Nineteen Sixty Seven ^{battle.} He becomes Minister of
Transport - a job of vital importance to ~~Israel's~~ Israel's
military arm.

BENEFITS

The House has approved a fifteen percent increase in Social Security benefits for twenty-five million persons, the entire Social Security enrollment. ~~and~~ It calls for ~~now~~ no additional Social Security taxes at this time. If all goes according to plan, the boost would begin on New Year's Day. The House measure ~~now~~ becomes part of the tax reform bill ~~now~~ now being negotiated by the ~~the~~ Conference Committee. Floor leaders hope the final version will be on President Nixon's desk before Christmas.

POPE

In his traditional speech summing up the year,

Pope Paul referred to the growing number of priests

who are abandoning their ~~own~~ vows, ~~he~~^{He} called ~~it~~^{this} his

"personal crown of thorns." ~~Again~~^{Then}, he confirmed that

~~he~~^{he} ~~do~~^{do} ~~is~~^{is} nothing to change the church law on

priestly celibacy, ^{which is} the main cause of dissention. A

~~Vatican source also revealed that~~^{The} Pope Paul this year

will deliver his Christmas message to the world on

Christmas Day ~~itself rather than in advance, as in~~

~~previous years.~~

PANTHERS

A group of militant negroes in Chicago have declared what they call "a curfew", for white people to stay out of black neighborhoods in Chicago ~~at~~ between the hours of six p.m. and six a.m. A ^A spokesman says it's a matter of trying to protect white people. ~~is~~

~~anything else.~~ This comes as a reaction to the recent slaying of two black panther leaders by police. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley had his reaction also, saying - "no one has the authority to take the law into his own hands, I don't think ~~there'll~~ there'll be a curfew."

In New York, former U N Ambassador Arthur Goldberg and twenty five other Civil Rights ~~and~~ legal and political leaders ^{announced} ~~say~~ plans to form an independent commission - to look into the police treatment of panthers in Chicago and other cities.

GUNS

Doctor Milton Eisenhower - in an interview today - took a strong position on the controversial issue of hand guns - and who should be allowed to have them.

~~When~~ Winding up nearly two years as chairman of the Commission on Violence, he said only a limited number of Americans need pistols. "The day is coming" said he "when we're going to have a system of restrictive licensing." ^{Milton} ~~Doctor~~ Eisenhower went on to say - "I'm not worried about shot guns and rifles used by sportsmen. But the hand gun - or pistol - is a different matter. Practically none of these is a sports gun - the only purpose is to kill. And we have twenty-five million hand guns in the United States - mostly imported and very cheap - anyone can buy one."

BALLOON

Eleven year old Rick Snyder, is ~~in fine shape~~ ^{okay}
 today - after ~~a~~ ^a ride in a run-away balloon ^{- a ride} that ended
 in the icy waters of the Minnesota River. It began
 yesterday as part of the half-time ~~show~~ show at the
 Minnesota-Vikings-San Francisco football game at
 Metropolitan Stadium. Young Rick got into the basket
 with his mother, who is a licensed ~~balloon~~ balloonist.

~~When~~ It didn't rise ^{so} she got out ^{to check it - and} then it did rise,
 breaking the mooring rope and soaring ^{off with} ~~it~~
 little Rick on board, alone. "As it flew out of the

stadium" Rick ^{said today} ~~says~~ "I looked for a good landing spot
 and opened the panel ^{to} ~~which~~ deflated ^{the balloon. Then he says} ~~that~~ saw the
 river, but ~~it was~~ too late." ^{Down they came} ~~Rick, landing~~ in the icy
 river. ^{But young Rick -} ~~swam~~ ^{swam} ~~for twenty five feet~~ ^{swam} ~~the balloon~~
 ashore. ^{He} ~~was recovered~~ ^{was} ~~later a mile down river.~~ ^{for an 11 yr. old,}

John Shafer, says that

ARCHER

The suburbs of Melbourne, Australia -

terrorized tonight by a hold-up man ~~with~~ arm ^{ed} ~~himself~~
with a bow, and a quiver ~~full~~ of arrows. The robber
walked into a dairy establishment - pointing his drawn
bow and ~~an~~ arrow at a young woman clerk, ~~and~~ demanding
all the money. He escaped with thirty dollars. Minutes
^{4 miles away} later, ^{in the suburb of} the archer ~~was~~ struck again ^{at} Thornbury. - ~~about~~
~~four miles away~~. This time escaping with three hundred

dollars.... An Australian Robin Hood?
We don't know whether he
gives it all to the poor
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STAMPS

Tues. Dec. 16-69.

A House Comm^s ittee approve^s a provision

~~that would~~ ^{to} require able-bodied adults to accept a job - go to work

^{they'll be eligible to} before ~~they~~ ^{receiving} food stamps, ^{This} in the anti-poverty

program. Under the plan ~~there would be~~ ^{also} no food stamps

~~either~~ for strikers, hippies, ^{or} ~~and~~ students who depend

on ~~their~~ parents for support.

TAXES

President Nixon and ~~the~~ U S Treasury officials
made it clear today ^{how} they strongly oppose any increase
in the ~~present~~ present six hundred dollar personal
exemption for income taxes. The President already has
threatened to veto any tax reform bill which contains an
eight hundred dollar exemption along ^a with [^] fifteen percent
boost in Social Security benefits.