

Tuesday, February 10, 1970

WHITE HOUSE

The big story tonight - President Nixon's special message to Congress; as you have doubtless heard by now - a bold plan for redoing and renewing the U.S. environment. The President pledging an all-out battle to clean up our skies and waters - to rid the countryside of junk - to open up more park lands. In the process - hopefully - developing within five years an automobile practically pollution free.

Cost of all this - hard to say. However the President setting a price tag of ten billion - on a five year program aimed at curbing water pollution alone. As for the rest - he made it clear we'll have to pay - government, industry, and the public in general. Whatever it takes to make up for generations of neglect. Whatever it takes - said the President - "to rescue our natural habitat - as a place both habitable and hospitable to man."

VAL D'ISERE

The picturesque mountain Alpine town of Val D'Isere - in the French Alps, just west of Mt. Blanc, is one of France's top ski resorts. In recent years - one of the most popular, too. Also, the home of France's Olympic champion - Jean Claude Killy. Now - the site of the worst avalanche in France since World War Two. It happened today - just at breakfast time. A sound of distant thunder - building suddenly to the roar of a dozen freight trains. And then, a wall of snow - engulfing everything in its path, including a skiers hostel and ^a nearby hotel where hundreds of young skiers had been talking and laughing only seconds before.

First reports indicating about forty dead. In addition scores injured; many of them hurt so badly they were not expected to live.

TUNIS

U S Secretary of State William Rogers -

*a State guest today in Tunisia; where - at Tunis - he
met for a time with Tunisian Premier Bahi Ladgham.*

*While outside - bands of Arab students shouted over
and over; "Rogers go home!" Also - "Nixon assassin!"*

*At one point, actually breaking through polic^e barricades,^{by}
attempting to storm Tunisia's government house - until
they finally crumpled under the effects of high powered
water hoses.*

*Later on - Rogers pledged nearly three million
more - in U S aide for Tunisian flood relief. This raising
to more than four ~~mi~~ million the U S contribution to
ease the plight of recent Tunisian flood victims.*

SAIGON

On the other side of the globe - U S Defense Secretary Melvin Laird arrived today in Saigon. There to begin a fact-finding mission for President Nixon - chiefly concerned with progress to date in "Vietnamizing the war.

At an airport news conference - Melvin Laird also stressing again the so-called "nixon doctrine." Asserting that U S policy - "turning over to South East Asian nations greater responsibility," for their own security "is a policy which will be steadfastly adhered to." In fact, he added - it could even "be called - irreversible."

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - an eye for an eye for an eye. Israeli jets hitting back hard today - in retaliation for those Egyptian air ~~strikes~~ strikes of yesterday.

For ~~years~~ nearly two hours blasting Egyptian targets at the southern end of the Suez Canal. At the same time - Israeli ground forces engaging in gun duels with Arab troops - in Egypt and also Jordan.

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Speaking of which - Jordan's ^{rugged} ~~tough~~ young King Hussein today ordered a get tough policy - in dealing with Arab guerrillas based in Jordan. The new rules banning fire arms - banning demonstrations - banning unauthorized publications and so on. Forcing compliance though, - well, that's another matter. Indeed, Arab guerrilla leaders ^{have} ~~order~~ ^{ed} a full scale "alert" tonight - in open defiance of the King's orders.

MUNICH

A related item - from Munich, West

- Germany; where an Arab terrorist threw a bomb today into an airport shuttle bus. This an apparent attempt to assassinate Assaf Dayan - the only son of Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. As luck would have it the ~~ax~~ younger Dayan escaping unharmed. Of his fellow passengers though one was killed, eleven injured.

WASHINGTON

Washington - again - the Democratic policy ~~xxxx~~ council issued a statement today - highly critical of the Nixon Administration. The Democratic position paper urging a rejection of the President's plan - to expand our safeguard Anti-ballistic missile system. It charged that the national economy was being threatened - "by the cool realize of inflation and the ~~xxx~~ growing threat of recession." And it also asked the Senate to vote "no" on the President's nomination of G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court.

Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey who serves as chairman of the council - further asserting that the President had "played rather loosely" with the High Bench. This - according to Democrats - ~~t~~tending "to polarize the people of this country - on the basis of race."

LIBERAL

The winner of this year's twenty-first international Shrove Tuesday pancake racing championship - a young American girl - Miss Kathleen West. In the American leg of the race - at ~~Liberal~~ Liberal, Kansas - completing nearly a quarter mile course in fifty-nine-and-one-tenth seconds. As required by the rules - flipping her flapjack three times along the way. Thereby topping by nearly twelve seconds - ~~the~~ defending champion Sylvia Winstanley; who had ^{to contend with heavy slush - in the earlier} ~~earlier won the~~ British half of the race - at Olney, England.

This, incidentally, the first American victory - in three years. In the overall series - the U S now trailing Britain by ~~now~~ just one. - Eleven to ten.

STOCKHOLM

For the past couple of years or so - the hottest thing in American film world has been those Swedish films. The Swedish imports packing movie houses clear across the land with all that sex, sex and more sex; with the result that American film makers have been more and more following suit - attempting to cash in on this cine-sex orgy.

Now comes a report from Stockholm - suggesting that somebody may be killing the goose that laid the golden egg. That is the movie theaters of Sweden are said to be almost empty these days with average attendance running to less than twenty-five percent capacity. A third of Sweden's movie houses - already over the last five years forced to close for lack of business.

In Sweden at least - sex movies seem to have run its course. The Swedes generally ignoring their own "skin flicks" and all other films as well. Why? Perhaps because Sweden has had its sexual revolution; and now that it's finally reached the screen the Swedes are bored, Warren.

SYDNEY

From Sydney, Australia - the story today of a court case - longest ever in Australia. Plaintiff - the American flange and manufacturing company of New York City; challenging Rheem Australia, Limited - on the production rights to a stopper for metal drums. The trial lasting for more than three-and-a-half years - involving more than three million words of testimony; and now - at last - the verdict is in.

Justice Frederick Myers - tossing out the American claim ^{and} Giving Rheem Australia carte blanche -- to continue selling its stoppers - which retail - by the way - at thirty-three cents a piece. He also ordered American Flange to pay court costs, amounting in this case to one million bucks. For ~~ax~~ want of a stopper - all down the ix drain.