

MOON

Mon. Apr. 24 - 72.

For the men of Apollo sixteen a final day in lunar orbit. Astronauts ~~John~~ Young, ~~Charlie~~ Duke and ~~FOW~~ Mattingly - bathed today in the moon glow of a job well done; and they might have liked to savor it some -- except that Mission Control in Houston was already compiling a new work schedule. This - leading to some rather testy remarks from space. While transcribing the new check list - ~~FOW~~ Mattingly finally saying: "It's getting so damn confused - I'm doing more deleting and writing over than anything else. ~~FOW~~ Young later admitting that he - too - was "a little bothered" by some of the new chores. Adding *sharply*: - ~~irritatedly~~: "We're going to do four times the work - to do whatever it is we would have done." Luckily though the worst is now ~~past~~ passed; with the command ship Casper - scheduled to blast out of lunar ~~orbit~~ orbit around nine fifteen tonight - Eastern time - and ~~thus begins~~ ^{they} the long voyage home.

KON TUM PROVINCE

~~On the war front~~ ^{today} U S B-52's _^ continued to hammer away at North Vietnam; ~~today~~ hitting again - the port city of ~~Blawan~~ Than Hoa, about eighty miles south of Hanoi. While additional B-52's ~~facth~~ further south - were also hitting within one mile of ~~the~~ besieged An Loc.

On the ground though - in the central highlands - tank-led enemy forces were capturing five more south Vietnamese outposts. This apparently clearing the way -- for a long-awaited enemy offensive in Kon Tum Province, the first step - we are told in an effort to seize the country's entire mid-section. At least one U S advisor saying: "The North Vietnamese will have to reorganize -- but the pressure on Kon Tum will be intense."

SAIGON

For all this - the U S withdrawal ~~per~~ program continues virtually as planned. According to figures announced today at Saigon - another eighty-five hundred U S ground troops heading home last week.

Total U S troop strength - now down to seventy-six thousand, five hundred; the lowest figure since June of Sixty-Five. ^{You may recall} ~~And~~ The President's goal, [^] ~~of course.~~ another cut of about seven thousand by May one.

PARIS

Another development from Paris; where the Viet Cong's Madame Binh was sending personal letters to U S Senators and Congressmen. Madame Binh urging the ~~lame~~ legislators to take direct action - in order to bring an end to U S ~~involvement~~ ~~in~~ involvement ~~in~~ in Viet Nam.



STATE FOLLOW PARIS

But with
~~However~~ the Madame's words - drawing scant

support in Washington. Indeed, a state department spokesman noting that "members of Congress - are elected by Americans for serving American interests." And, "these members" said he - "are perfectly capable of making their own decisions." He also said: "If that comment is not ~~disdain~~ disdainful enough I apologize."

The White House ~~later~~ later adding it was confident that, quote - "this arrogant effort by Madame Binh won't work."

PITTSBURGH

Coming up tomorrow - the Massachusetts and Pennsylvania presidential primaries. In the first - Senator McGovern said to be a sure winner. ~~Therefore~~, ^{today were} most of the candidates ~~are~~ concentrating ~~focus~~ on the Keystone State; among them Senator McGovern, who ~~has~~ took along for added support - Kathleen Kennedy, ~~the~~ eldest daughter of the late Senator Robert Kennedy.

Meanwhile, Hubert Humphrey was touring a number of western ~~District~~ Pennsylvania steel and coal towns - along with a group of Union leaders. At one point a steel worker telling the former Vice President; "~~was~~ every time there is an election - these union ~~boss~~ leaders work for you. And then he ^{added:-} ~~said:-~~ "Why don't you get them to come in here - and work for us?"

Earlier, at Pittsburgh, George Wallace was charging that many of his campaign issues - have now been pre-empted by opposing candidates. Said he: "Every time I did up a bone - one of these Democrats takes it and runs

with it.

MOSCOW

there was
Last week - you may recall - a report that
Russia has downgraded President ~~Nixon~~ Nixon's forthcoming mission to Moscow. The Kremlin supposedly saying - his state visit - would now become a mere "summit conference." This - we were told - because of U S bombing raids against North Vietnam. All of which the Kremlin today branded - "pure fabrication."

The Kremlin adding: in fact, "nothing has changed." Further insisting that Russia "will observe all the rules of protocol - and of traditional Russian hospitality."

SAN ANTONIO

From San Antonio - the best report yet with regard to the health of former President Johnson. Doctors ~~saying~~ ^{saying} ~~noting today that~~ L B J has progressed well - from that heart attack of a couple of weeks ago. Adding that he is - "rapidly regaining his health." The prognosis in short, excellent.

STOCKHOLM

In ceremonies at Stockholm - a prominent
U S scientist ^{today} was awarded ~~today~~ Sweden's prestigious
Vega medal for Nineteen Seventy-Two. Doctor Albert
Crary - a ~~leading~~ U S ~~at~~ polar explorer ^{who has} headed a
number of scientific expeditions to both the Arctic and
Antarctic; also, serving two years - as station manager
at "Little America." More recently, head of the
environmental department - in the U S national scientific
foundation. Doctor Crary lauded today - for his
contributions to ~~anthropology~~ anthropology and geography.

WASHINGTON

Washington again - a brief item: Perhaps illustrating - time's awastin'.

At any rate, government scientists ^{were} discussing the ~~the~~ ^{net result if we could} ~~possibility of~~ compressing into one year - all the time since the beginning of the world; in which case - we are told - the existence of man ~~would~~ would cover only the final ten minutes; and recorded history - only the last forty-~~five~~ five seconds.

As for the present ~~age~~ generation - yours and mine, Warren - ^{Oh, maybe a 1000th of a second - or less.} ~~one sneeze and you blew it all~~

HELSINKI

The big story today in Helsinki - a strike that forced the closing of all of ~~Riikilaitos~~ Finland's state owned alcohol ~~shops~~ shops. The whole country suddenly gone dry. For hard-working, hard-drinking ~~Finns~~ Finns a real calamity. Ah, but it's an ill wind that blows no good. As witness a sudden decline - in arrests for public drunkenness, disorderly behavior and so on. A police spokesman saying: "Others may not like the strike - but we ^{do} ~~have good times~~ and s-l-u-t-m.