

Friday, December 27, 1974

## **WATERGATE**

*The trial of the Watergate five came to an end today - with Judge Sirica all set to give the case to the jury on Monday. Chief prosecutor James Neal in his final speech, urged the jury to return a verdict that will renew for Americans a confidence that their leaders will be "fair, honorable and just." In the hands of the jury now are the futures of five former aides to Richard Nixon - John Mitchell, H.R. Haldemann, John Ehrlichman, Robert Mardian and Kenneth Parkinson.*

## ECONOMY

As President Ford conferred today with cabinet members and energy advisors at Vail, Colorado, the Commerce Department reported a November ~~low~~ balance of trade deficit of one hundred thirteen million - caused partly by a three percent increase in oil imports. Also, the government index of leading ~~economic~~ economic indicators declined again - portending perhaps more productions cut-backs and layoffs, ~~in the coming months.~~ ~~As says Assistant Commerce Secretary James L. Pate - "this clearly reflects the decline in economic activity and weakness in the employment situation."~~

The price of gold <sup>today</sup> rose to almost two hundred dollars an ounce, on European markets. - ~~for~~ <sup>This</sup> three days before Americans will be <sup>allowed</sup> legally ~~allowed~~ to own gold for the first time since depression days.

## MID EAST

The Israeli Air Force journal says that during the Yom Kippur War a year ago, Israel sent American built un-manned drone planes on intelligence missions over Egypt and Syria, photographing Arab air fields missile sites, and other military installations.

In Tel Aviv the El Al Israel Airlines grounded its thirteen aircraft today, <sup>This far</sup> ~~as~~ the first time <sup>in its</sup> ~~in~~ twenty-six year history. The shut down is to counter a slow-down by maintenance workers who want more men on the job.

## **CYCLONE**

***The biggest air lift in Australian history.***

***Evacuating up to twenty-five thousand from the cyclone  
shattered city of Darwin. The death toll from the Christmas  
Day storm now put at forty-five may go over a hundred.  
Darwin a city ruins - without water or electric power.***

## ACCIDENTS

A sudden rash of accidents, <sup>today,</sup> ~~in many parts of the~~  
~~world killed scores of persons today - injuring many~~  
~~others.~~ In northern France, a coal mine explosion  
took at least forty lives. Eight passengers were killed  
in a train wreck at the main railroad station in  
Lisbon, Portugal. Thirty were injured when a  
passenger train <sup>went off the track</sup> ~~derailed~~ in Argentina near the  
Bolivian border. In Brazil; ~~also~~ a locomotive crashed  
into a bus north of Rio - killing nineteen - injuring  
more than twenty others. And <sup>17</sup> ~~fourteen~~ were killed  
on a freeway outside ~~the~~ Mexico City, <sup>when a</sup> ~~truck~~  
tractor trailer, <sup>+</sup> loaded with gravel, <sup>+</sup> collided ~~in~~  
head on with a ~~bus~~ ~~loaded with~~ passengers bus.

## FLYING

The F A A today announced ~~what it calls~~ two major steps to make <sup>our</sup> ~~America's~~ airways safer, ~~to for~~ ~~travel~~ - ~~one measure~~ <sup>To</sup> centralizes in Washington all aircraft certification, also, engineering ~~the~~ and manufacturing supervision - functions performed in the past at regional offices. <sup>Also</sup> ~~The second measure~~ ~~is~~ a special notice to all airmen, <sup>restating</sup> the fundamental ~~rule~~ that a pilot bears the ultimate responsibility for the safety of his aircraft. The announcement came after a congressional subcommittee ~~on earlier~~ today accused the F A A of foot-dragging on safety ~~questions~~.

## BENNY

Jack Benny - whose career spanned half a century - as you no doubt have heard - died in Los Angeles last evening. Typical of his off hand, low key humor were his first words on radio some four ~~decades~~ decades ago: "Ladies and gentlemen - this is Jack Benny talking - and now there will be a slight pause while you say - who ~~is~~ cares? Jack was eighty but the last line of The Los Angeles Times lengthy obituary ~~now~~ reads: "he was thirty nine."

Two months ago we had a report that he was ill. Soon after he wrote me saying he was feeling much better, didn't feel too bad at any time, hoped to set out on another summer stock tour and then he added - "I promise to put in at least one new joke." A typical deadpan, witty Jack Benny remark. ~~another~~

What a fine person he was - one of the great stars of our time.

## SKIING

Ski area people are all smiles. Twelve inches of new snow in Vermont, and <sup>from</sup> resorts nearly everywhere we hear of the best ski conditions in three years.

Some areas in the southwest are digging out of their heaviest snowfall in a decade. Near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, of ~~and~~ Ralph Edwards fame <sup>searchers</sup> have found fourteen year old ~~himself~~ Joseph Cardova who got lost in the snow. ~~Although~~ <sup>He hadn't been</sup> ~~he wasn't~~ heard from for two days. Young Joe had been chasing jack rabbits <sup>that the snow covered</sup> purple sage. And now this message.

## PARTY

When Frederick Samuels throws a party in his Brooklyn, New York home he sometimes likes to liven things up a bit by going outside the house and making strange noises through a window, frightening his guests. But one guest - Mrs. Leahbell Scott of Elizabeth, New Jersey was so scared ~~that~~ she ran for the door - fell and broke her leg. Now, it's Mrs. Scott's ~~turn~~ turn to make frightening noises, in court. She's suing for sixty thousand. ~~in damages.~~