

Tues. Jan. 6, 1970
Pittsfield, Mass.

YABLONSKI

In Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio - thousands of coal miners refused to work today, in protest against the murder of United Mine Workers official Joseph Yablonski, his wife, and his daughter - by killers as yet unknown.

Meanwhile, Yablonski's two sons issued a statement today attempting to relate their father's death to his recent unsuccessful campaign for U.M.W. president, further charging that the three murders - were the work of "professional assassins."

The Kremlin was also taking note of this case today. The official Moscow newspaper Ivestia charging that Yablonski's death - was, quote, "another political killing" in an America "drunk with aggressive ambitions and racial hatred."

VIETNAM

From Vietnam comes news of the heaviest fighting in nearly two months. With a Communist force attacking a U.S. Marine post near My Lai. The Vietcong killing eleven, wounding fifty-nine - before they were finally driven back.

Even so Saigon was apparently doing its best today to insure a gala Tet New Year's observance[~] next month. According to Allied sources - the government planning to give five day holiday leave - to an estimated one million South Vietnamese soldiers. However, furloughs will all end - at least one day before the Tet observance actually begins. Indeed, a full alert is planned for the entire holiday period - Communist truce or no; with Saigon hoping to make sure 'no tricks.

SAN CLEMENTE

From the Western White House - San Clemente - the threat of a presidential veto today. White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler - speaking of a nineteen-point-seven-billion dollar health and education bill now pending in Congress, said the President "absolutely" will veto this measure - unless it is substantially reduced before final passage. The President was quoted as calling the bill - "clearly inflationary."

Next up - in Washington - House Speaker John McCormick. Asserting that "every effort will be made - to override" the expected veto. He admitted, however, it cant' be done - without Republican help; and that - not very likely.

EDGARTOWN

Edgartown, Mass. - the second day of that secret inquest - into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne. Witnesses today included Providence yachtsman Ross Richard - who met with Senator Edward Kennedy just a few hours prior to Miss Kopechne's death; also, the Senator's cousin, Joseph Gargan; - and, a close friend, Paul Markham. The latter supposedly confirming Kennedy's account - of his vain attempt to rescue the girl.

CHICAGO

Another courtroom drama in Chicago; where Mayor Daley was called as a defense witness today - in the trial of the "Chicago Seven." The Mayor sparring with defense lawyers - who were trying, in effect, to put him on trial; contending it was actually he rather than the defendants - who started those Chicago riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. However, Judge Hoffman ruled time and again that the defense line of questioning was improper and irrelevant.

KABUL

Today's port of call for Spiro Agnew - Kabul, Afghanistan, which until before World War II was one of the most inaccessible cities in the world. Here the vice president had a tumultuous greeting - from thousands of Afghans dressed in their colorful robes and turbans. Many waving American flags along the route of the Agnew motorcade - en route to the royal guest house of King Zahir Shah.

Kabul may seem like something of a hippy heaven; because of its - cut-rate marijuana. There appeared to be a few hippy types in sight, but the Afghans are a rugged warlike people. Even Alexander the Great found that out 2000 years ago. The Afghans once gave the British a rough time.

I happened to be one of the first Americans ever to visit Afghanistan forty-nine years ago - via Khyber Pass.

MOSCOW

Here's another world traveler; - Senator Eugene McCarthy,
- who arrived today in Moscow. The former presidential
hopeful - billing his visit as "unofficial." He was met,
nevertheless, by a delegate from the Soviet Foreign Ministry
- also, a horde of reporters, both Russian and foreign. The
Senator saying he planned to talk with Soviet officials -
about East-West trade and possibly Soviet-American relations.

As for the possibility that certain "other subjects
might come up"- said McCarthy "maybe; - you can never tell."

CENSUS FOLLOW MOSCOW

Elsewhere in Moscow - the Kremlin today announced plans to start next week - its first official census since 1959. This time an "in depth" study; - by Russian standards anyway. In addition to a few basic questions - the census to contain inquiries such as: How long does it take you to commute? How much time is spent traveling between home and school? How much time do you spend shopping? The Soviets looking for answers to a problem they call - their "pendulem migration;" or, Warren, what do we call it? Rush hour roulette?"

VODKA

Moscow again - the Kremlin was urged today to initiate a "great experiment," Russian style. Soviet writer Viktor Loginov - calling for a nationwide ban on the manufacture and sale of vodka citing in support of his plea - many, many millions - rules, in lost production because of drunkenness, also, the broken homes - demoralized youth. Loginov asserting that a vodka ban would "have more effect" - said he, "than all the propaganda we have been relying on for years to reduce drinking."

What about past attempts at prohibition - in the U.S., Britain, and so on? "Those were capitalistic countries" - said Loginov; countries more interested in profit than in actually stopping drinking. Loginov also scoffed at the idea - that vodka drinkers might switch to champagne or cognac. "Too expensive" - said he. Then added Comrade Loginov: - "Our Vodka drunks simply couldn't afford champagne!"