

Wednesday, February 28, 1973

## VIETNAM

North Vietnamese officials today assured President Nixon that they will resume the release of American war prisoners - possibly arranging for the release of another group later this week. The agreement announced by the White House, was reached in Paris at a private meeting between Secretary of State Rogers and Hanoi's foreign Minister Trinh.

This apparently settles the crisis which arose yesterday when the North Vietnamese announced a suspension of prisoner releases on the ground that the cease-fire was not being observed by the South Vietnamese and American side. Presidential News Secretary Ziegler said Trinh gave the assurances of his government that all U.S. prisoners would be freed within the stipulated sixty day period. This should free all of them before the end of March. An estimated four hundred and twenty-six Americans are still

*in Communist captivity.*

*In Paris, where the international conference on Vietnam peace is under way, the American representatives announced they would not participate in the conference until Hanoi actually submits the list of names of American prisoners next to be freed.*

## VISIT

Diplomatic sources in Washington report that Soviet ~~Communist~~ Communist Party leader Brezhnev would like to accept President Nixon's invitation to visit the United States this year - and we hear the Soviet leader is considering June as a possible date. But it's reported his decision would depend on whether Congress will grant Russia the "most favored nation" trading treatment provided for in last year's Soviet-American trade agreement.

## PIPELINE

The Nixon Administration is going all out in asking Congress and the Supreme Court to permit construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline at the earliest possible date. Says Interior Secretary Rogers Morton - "until the line is built, we'll have to import every barrel of oil we don't get from Alaska." Also, today, the Senate Interior Committee set March Ninth as the date for hearing on a bill that would remove legal restrictions on the pipeline. If approved, the measure would overturn a federal appeals court's ruling against the project because it requires a right of way wider than fifty-four feet - the present legal limit.



## INDIANS

What has all the earmarks of a pitched battle is taking place tonight out at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. There, an estimated two-hundred-and-fifty American Indians - members of The Militant American Indian Movement - have taken over a trading post and a church - and are holding at least ten hostages. Federal Marshalls, F B I agents, and police have surrounded the area and two ~~more~~ armored personnel carriers have been moved up to the scene. Already the two sides have exchanged gun fire. The Indians are firing at any low flying planes that come within rifle range - and at any automobiles that drive past. They are armed with hunting rifles and ammunition - seized in taking over the trading post. They could hold out for weeks - say some officials. The Indians are demanding that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hold full-scale hearings on Indian treaties.

## **ECONOMY**

*The Agriculture Department reported today that because of soaring farm prices the typical American family's annual food bill in January increased at the highest rate on record. The boost of two point seven percent was the sharpest one-month's rise since the government began keeping monthly records of such matters back in Nineteen-Forty-Seven. Even more rises in the retail cost of food are fore-shadowed in the figures for the period February First to Fifteen which shows a three percent increase. Leading the list of higher priced items are beef cattle and hogs - now twenty-two percent above last year's levels.*

*Speaking for the Democrats Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin charged today that President Nixon is fueling inflation, permitting excessive unemployment - and allowing a further devaluation of the dollar in world trade. As Vice Chairman of the House Senate Joint Economic Committee Proxmire was chosen by the Democrats on Capitol*

*Hill to reply to the President's radio address to the nation last week under the network equal time provision.*

*In Tokyo, the value of the U.S. dollar against the Japanese yen went up sharply today for the first time since Japan floated its currency two weeks ago following the ten percent devaluation of the dollar.*

*In Britain a twenty-four hour strike halted almost every train in the nation - causing traffic jams as commuters took to the road. Strikes also slowed the subways in London, closed down schools and cut gas supplies. All a part of the "strike a day" protest against the government's pay freeze policies.*

GRAY

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*President Nixon's nominee to head the  
F B I - L Patrick Gray -- today promised to open  
the F B I files on the Watergate case to the Senate -  
and he ~~first~~ further declared he would resign before  
permitting the Bureau to be used for partison politics.  
In testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee  
now considering his nomination, Gray firmly ~~re~~jected  
assertions that his public speeches last ~~year~~ year were  
aimed at helping President Nixon campaign for  
re-election.*



## EARTHQUAKE

*A section of the eastern seaboard - from Trenton, New Jersey to Baltimore experienced a rare earthquake today causing surprise and fright among many residents of at least four states. The Quake, at an early hour, about three-thirty A.M., shook houses, trees and windows - and routed many people from their beds. But there were no injuries reported, and property damage was minor.*

*A Geophysics expert at Penn State University - Dr. Shelton Alexander - said there was "no way the quake could be related to the intense earthquake over in the Kurile Islands, off Siberia.*

*In the Western United States, the University of Nevada reported what it calls an "earthquake swarm" was gently shaking northern Nevada with more than thirty tremblors recorded there.*

## BUS DRIVER

Last year, when he was only ten years old, little Joe Thompson of Chicago was taught how to drive a car - taught by his father. So today now that he's eleven, Joe decided it was time to get in some practice. Not on a car but on a bus. He confidently walked into a Chicago transit authority barn and got behind the wheel of a big bus and drove it some fifteen miles.

Everything went fine until local policeman Don Paeth wondered what that big Chicago bus was doing in his area. Also he noted the driver was having trouble keeping it on the road. Officer Paeth curbed the bus - the door opened - and out came little Joe who couldn't help bursting into tears when he saw the policeman. "That's alright" said the officer, kindly, "you're a better driver than most." But he still had to charge Joe with theft and a hearing was set for March Twentieth. Meanwhile, little Joe was sent home. Bill, I wonder if they have a woodshed at little Joe's house!

## SKYCAP

*What happens when a passenger refuses to tip a skycap for carrying luggage at the greater Pittsburgh International airport? All kinds of things, it seems. First the skycap called the passenger a name - then placed his luggage on a plane bound for New York - though the passenger was bound for Newark, New Jersey. Well, the skycap was fired. Whereupon fourteen other skycaps at Pittsburgh airport went on strike, to protest. So at Pittsburgh air passengers are carrying their own luggage.*