

Thurs. Jan. 2-69. ✓

The winner ^{and} ~~the~~ still champion - seventy-
seven year old John McCormack. Scoring the right
today - to his fourth straight term as speaker of the
House.

This - in a closed door caucus of House
Democrats. The veteran Boston congressman easily
turning back his lone challenger. Defeating forty-six
year old congressman Udall of Arizona - by a margin of
^{better than}
~~of nearly~~ three to one.

The ~~victory~~ victory - not without cost though.
In response to ~~such~~ pressure from the "young Turks"
-- McCormack agreeing to give the full House Democratic
membership - a greater voice in committee assignments;
also party policy decisions.

MIDDLE EAST

In the tense Middle East -- deepening crisis today with Israeli jets attacking Jordan for a third straight day. According to Amman - an unprovoked assault. According to Jerusalem a strike directed against Arab guerrilla bases located in Jordan.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union was launching a new Mid-East peace offensive in London. Soviet Ambassador Mikhail Smirnovsky, meeting with British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart; reportedly urging the U.S. - Britain and France to join with Russia - in a "Big Power" peace move. However, President Johnson tells us the United Nations is still "the most appropriate way of seeking peace in the Middle East."

TURIN

More on the same - from Turin, Italy; where the Turin newspaper La Stampa - today published the transcript of a New Year's interview with Pope Paul. The Pontiff asserting that the great powers might have to intervene - to restore peace in the Middle East.

This ~~marking~~ only the second time ~~that~~ the Pope has ^{ever} permitted an interview ^{of this sort.} ~~for direct attribution.~~

~~Accidentally,~~ The Turin interviewer - Reporter_x Arrigo Levi - a Jew; who greeted the Pontiff with the words - "Shalom, llekha." "Peace be with you." Pope Paul's response -- a beaming "shalom, shalom" - said the reporter. "Peace, peace." *So, will it come, soon?*

~~Wouldn't it be wonderful!~~

PARIS

For the first time in two weeks - signs of movement today in Paris. Number two U S peace negotiator Cyrus Vance - conferring with Saigon delegation chief Pham Dang Lam. Vance later moving on to a secret meeting with his North Vietnamese counter-part, Hanoi's Ha Van Lau.

~~Results - if any -- as yet undisclosed.~~

~~Saigon's Pham Dang Lam the only one talking. And all he said was -- "we have resumed our meetings - after the Christmas holidays."~~

ADD PARIS

However, results - apparently nil. The secret parley breaking up - after four hours and ten minutes of deliberations. A U.S. spokesman reporting tonight that "Herculean efforts" - as he put it - ~~xxxx~~ had failed again to speed expanded talks.

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

At the same time - a year-end casualty report from Saigon. Listing the number of U.S. dead at nearly fifteen thousand in Nineteen Sixty-Eight in this the eighth year of the longest war in American history. This year's figure almost matching the total U.S. combat losses - in the previous seven years all put together.

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Perhaps the best way to deal with the danger - said Dr. Borolla - is a round the world program of preventive medicine. Calling for shots, oral ^{elaborate} vaccine and other protective measures against cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, malaria and so on.

In support of his plea for shots - Dr. Borolla citing the recent case of a Swedish sailor who left his ship in Australia - flying home by way of Indonesia -

GENEVA

From the world health organization -

Geneva - comes a warning today about the perils of jet age epidemics. As for example - the current plague of Hong Kong Flu. Dr. Pierre Marie Dorolle noting that a jet traveller can pick up an infection on one continent - and ~~be~~ spread it to another in a matter of hours. A situation that ~~is~~ could become even worse - said he - with the introduction of supersonic transports.

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NEW DELHI

The fabled Shah of Shahs, the Shah of Iran -
a visitor today to ~~the~~^{the} vast sub-continent of Hindustan.
The Shah arriving at New Delhi - for the ^(start)~~start~~ of a
twelve day state visit, Accompanied by his wife - the
lovely Empress Farah. The couple receiving a warm
~~personal~~ greeting from India's lady Prime Minister
Madame Indira Gandhi.

SOUTHAMPTON

The object of a rousing send-off when she first left port last month - the new Queen Elizabeth Two slipped ~~to~~ quietly back into Southampton today. Instead of ~~a~~ welcoming crowds - a thousand shipyard workers ^{were} waiting to board the British luxury liner - hoping to repair the faulty turbines - in time for a "maiden" Trans-Atlantic voyage scheduled only two weeks hence. ~~Meanwhile~~ Meanwhile, British headlines ^{have been} dubbing the Queen Elizabeth Two - the ship that nearly died of shame.

INVERNESS

Latest in religious innovation - ~~as~~ recorded today from the Scottish Highlands where a Thirteenth Century Benedictine Monastery will be the launching pad next summer - for a new "be a monk for a month" plan.

This at Pluscarden Priory - north of Inverness in northernmost Scotland. With selective applicants expected to live side by side with Plus^Scarden monks, getting up at five for breakfast, tending fruit trees, raising bees, receiving prayer instruction.

The idea - according to church officials; to help young men to decide ~~for sure~~ - whether God is calling them to the monastic order."

Warren - shall we become monks for a month? Wouldn't you like to live in a 13th century monastery?

LONG BEACH

For Richard Nixon - a ninety minute physical today at Long Beach California. His first complete checkup in fourteen months.

Nixon's friend and physician Dr. John Lundgren, later reporting the President-elect in "excellent health". Drawing the following comment from Richard Nixon. "I felt fine before I came here"- ~~said he~~ and now I feel even ~~xxx~~ better." And s-l.