

*Speaking in New Orleans today despite reports of a possible assassination plot, President Nixon told the V-F-W National Convention that he personally ordered the secret bombing of Cambodia four years ago - did it to save American lives and bring a quicker end to the Vietnam War. He also said that "appropriate members of Congress" were informed of the action - which Cambodian Prince Sihanouk also had approved. The President added - "I'm proud of what we've done."*

*As he delivered his address inside the huge Rivergate Auditorium in downtown New Orleans, a small army of Secret Service men, F-B-I agents and police were on the alert because of a reported plot against the President's life. Earlier, he had agreed to abandon plans for a motorcade arrival long the city's famed Canal Street. But he did refuse any suggestion to cancel ~~the~~ the visit altogether.*

*To head off any possible assassination attempt, police sought a former New Orleans policeman who had tried to*

*throw a burning American flag on the Presidential car three years ago.*

*Without mentioning the reported plot during his thirty-minute speech, the President told the cheering delegates that "if American soldiers in the field were similarly threatened again," - said he - "I'd make the same decision as I did in Nineteen-Sixty-Nine. The suggestion that those enemy staging areas in Cambodia were neutral territory, exempt from bombing and counterattack, that's ludicrous -" said he. And he added - "I find that some politicians and members of the press who enthusiastically supported the Administration that got us into Vietnam ten years ago, are now critical of what I did to get us out."*

*The President made NO reference to Watergate during his speech. Afterwards he flew on to the Western White House at San Clemente.*

INDOCHINA

~~Order prevails~~ <sup>All quiet</sup> once more in the Laotian capital of

Vientiane - while a search continues for right-wing rebels who unsuccessfully tried to overthrow Prince Souvanna Phouma and his government in a pre-dawn coup. The rebel leader - former air force commander Thao Ma - was shot to death trying to escape from the wreckage of his plane just after it was shot down over the local airport; <sup>so say</sup> ~~according~~ to government spokesmen. Ma and his cohorts apparently were trying to block negotiations between Souvanna and the Communist Pathet Lao.

Mean<sup>while</sup> ~~time~~ in Cambodia, rebel forces renewed their attacks against two provincial capitds, - ending a five-day semi-peace that followed the final American air bombardment. Some fighting<sup>is</sup> reported within six miles of Phnom Penh. And in South Vietnam, Communist gunners attacked government positions around Hue for the fourth straight day. The new cease-fire violations came in an area where Hanoi was reported to be sending in two-thousand

brides for as many North Vietnamese soldiers - <sup>who</sup> ~~as if~~ they say  
planned to set up housekeeping there permanently.

SERGEANT

A U-S Air Force sergeant faces a charge of espionage for allegedly trying to pass secret American military documents to a Russian agent. The Pentagon identified the accused non-com as thirty-five-year-old James D. Wood of Tacoma, Washington, who is being held at Fort Dix, New Jersey, pending further investigation. He has been in the Air Force eighteen years, and was arrested in New York City recently when F-B-I agents found highly classified documents in the trunk of his rental car, ~~according to military sources. Time Magazine says Wood, apparently motivated by money, was arrested after the F-B-I trailed a Russian diplomat, unidentified, from Washington on suspicion of spying.~~ At the time of his arrest, Wood was assigned to the highly secret Air Force office of special investigation.

## FOREST FIRE

*One of the greatest forest fire-fighting armies ever assembled is battling fires tonight in five western states - with the flames out of control in some ninety-thousand acres. Four major blazes are in California alone.*

# WEATHER

Skylab astronauts took another televised look at tropical storm Brenda today as it swept over the Gulf of Mexico - reporting the storm ~~to~~ gaining strength and ~~becoming more centralized as it heads toward the Mexican coast near Tampico.~~ Brenda <sup>has</sup> ~~is expected to~~ reach hurricane force tonight, <sup>ed</sup> ~~if it hasn't already.~~ heading for Vera Cruz and the Isthmus of Tuxantapec.

Palm Springs, California, was hit by a "no-name-hurricane" early today - with seventy-five-mile-an-hour winds and bolts of lightning knocking out power lines and causing several fires, though NO injuries were reported.

And half-way around the world in Pakistan, the rain-swollen Indus River broke through an embankment some two-hundred-fifty miles north of Karachi - <sup>adding to</sup> ~~intensifying~~ what may already be a national disaster.

## WETTEST

Where is the wettest spot in the world? The answer surprises me. I thought it was the coast of Assam and Burma. But no they say it's here in the U-S-A - ~~that~~ in our Fiftieth State, <sup>ON</sup> ~~the Island~~ <sup>ON</sup> of Kauai, which as you know is a beautiful island in the Hawaiian group. There, on and around Mount Waialeale (Why-ah-lay-ah-lay) they have an average of four-hundred-and-fifty-one inches of rain each year; but, only on one side of the island! ~~With~~ Cherrapunji, India, on the Assam coast, <sup>does</sup> ~~ranking~~ number two. <sup>At Cherrapunji</sup> ~~where their~~ average rainfall is four-hundred-fifty inches! <sup>One</sup> inch less than at Mt. Waialeale on Kauai, I wonder who guarantees the accuracy of that measuring?



## DERBY

*In Akron, Ohio, the winner of this year's Soap Box Derby was disqualified today after officials found an illegal magnetic system in his homemade racing car. They said a fourteen-year-old from Boulder, Colorado, had built an electro-magnetic system in the nose of his racer - to help get the car off to a fast start in a race where the law of gravity is supposed to provide all the speed. The second place - driven by Bret Yarborough of Elk Grove, California, - was declared winner of the race and a seven-thousand-dollar scholarship.*

## DIRECTORY

*Moscow, Russia and Moscow, Idaho now have at least one other thing in common besides their names. Both cities have telephone directories - but up until today, that wasn't exactly true with Moscow, Russia, which till now was virtually a city of all unlisted telephone numbers. Now at long last if you arrive in Moscow and want to call a friend, you merely check the directory for his number. But first, you have to buy a phone book at a cost of twelve rubles, or sixteen dollars, for a directory full of such names as Bukovina, Chaikovski, Kamanev, Kirovovich, Yurovich - not to mention Rasputin. If your friend's name is Ivanov, you'll have to wade through thirty-three pages for the Ivanovs who are as numerous as the Smiths and Browns in the U-S-A - or the Cohens in New York - the Lopez in Texas and California. And if you call long-distance don't break your finger. You have to insert it a total of eighteen times first, the number **8** eight for long-distance plus a three-*

DIRECTORY - 2

digit area code - then the seven-digit number - and finally the number from which you're calling and that's seven more digits. The Moscow directory has seven-hundred-thousand personal listings - plus another hundred-thousand-or-so telephones in communal apartments which I guess, might be called "party lines." Question <sup>line</sup> - can you use a party line or any? Bill, I wonder if you are a Moscovite in Moscow unless you follow the party line?

## FIRES

This next might be called the story of the amorous arsonist. A New York City <sup>chap</sup> ~~man~~ was critically burned today when he set fire to an apartment <sup>one</sup> he didn't want his girl friend to move ~~to~~ into. Police said things went wrong for the amorous arsonist when he failed to notice there was NO knob on the inside of the door. Engulfed in flames, he was forced to jump through a first floor window <sup>where</sup> ~~and~~ police found him lying on the sidewalk. Taken to a hospital, he still expressed opposition to <sup>the young lady's</sup> ~~his girl friend's~~ plans to move there.

In Chicago, ~~still~~ another fire - this one in the Midwest Pretzel Factory <sup>which</sup> ~~turned~~ traffic into a pretzel on the city's North Side, <sup>also</sup> ~~doing~~ the same for more than a hundred firemen <sup>who responded to the alarm and a crowd</sup> ~~and rubber-neckers who gathered around.~~ of fire buffs watching the pretzels burn.