

Thursday, Dec. 7, 1972
At CBS - 57th Street

SPACE

In the black void of space - Apollo-Seventeen was closing the gap today; catching up on the three hours it lost last night - while the three men on board were catching up on their sleep. The Houston ground experts were calling it a "slow" day in space.

Earlier though, the three astronauts were commenting on the flaking paint and insulation from their spacecraft.

"We're right in the middle of a snowstorm" - said Jack Schmitt. Gene Cernan adding: "Our entire sky is completely filled with twinkling flakes." And Ron Evans exclaiming: "Look at all that stuff - it looks like a rainbow!"

Astronaut-scientist Schmitt was also taken aback - by his first spaceman's view of the earth. Said he: "If there ever was a fragile appearing piece of blue in space - it's the earth right now."

KANSAS CITY

There were those at Kansas City, including a few doctors - who were just about ready to write him off. Ah, but Harry Truman may have fooled the experts again - just as he did in 'Forty-Eight. The eighty-eight-year-old ex-President - rallying today in his fight for life. The doctors now saying - it all depends on how his heart holds up.

The former President's daughter. Margaret Truman Daniel said today: "He is a strong man - I have faith that he's going to come out of this all right." Adding: "He has gotten over worse things."

The latest: Margaret saying of her father - "he's getting kind of contrary, with his nurses. And that - said she is "a very good indication."

CAMP DAVID

At Camp David - President Nixon today completed the job of filling out his second-term Cabinet. The President naming as his new Transportation Secretary - Claude Brinegar, up to now a Los Angeles oil company executive.

The President also announced that retiring Transportation Secretary John Volpe - will now become the U. S. Ambassador to Italy; the first American of Italian descent - ever to hold that post.

WASHINGTON

On the Democratic side - a number of party bigwigs were returning today to Washington; getting ready for Saturday's showdown ^{battle} between the party's two warring factions.

Early arrivals - including Robert Strauss of Texas; a hard-running candidate - to succeed Jean Westwood as Democratic National Chairman. And one of the first things he did was to knock down Miss Westwood's suggestion - that both he and she should withdraw quietly. "She didn't put me in the race" - said Strauss - "and she's not going to take me out."

PARIS

On the peace front at Paris - two sets of meetings were underway simultaneously today.

Publicly - another session of regular weekly peace talks. The Communist side claiming that negotiations to end the Vietnam war - are now deadlocked. The U.S. replying that "differences might still remain" - but these "continue to be dealt with."

Privately ~~Henry~~^{Dr.} Kissinger^{was} continuing his talks with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. As to what was or was not accomplished - ~~an~~ official silence; except ~~to say~~^{word} that they will meet[^] tomorrow.

DMZ FOLLOW PARIS

~~Half-a-world away~~ - ^{there is} in Vietnam _λ a reported enemy

build-up just above the DMZ; hence, a series of lightning
air raids - by more than ninety U.S. fighter-bombers and

scores of big B-Fifty-Two's, ^{with the} ~~these said to constitute the~~

heaviest attack against the Communist North - in more than
a week.

MANILA

At a cultural park near Manila Airport in the Philippines - an awards ceremony carried on TV. The lovely Imelda Marcos - wife of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos - personally congratulating the winners of a national beautification contest; when suddenly - a long-haired man appeared out of nowhere. He whipped out a deadly bolo knife - and slashed away at Mrs. Marcos. The latter - throwing up her arms; defending herself as best she could - till bystanders were able to jump in.

Mrs. Marcos' attacker - finally shot dead. But not before she and three others - had all been slashed.

The First Lady's wounds - requiring an estimated seventy-five stitches. She also suffered a broken hand ^{ed} --and severed tendons. All this - reminiscent of the Nineteen Hundreds; when Moro fanatics similarly attacked Philippine leaders. - ~~throughout the land.~~

BRUSSELS

From President Nixon - an assurance today that the U.S. intends to maintain its troop strength in Europe; intends to do so - said he - as long as our allies and the Soviet Union do the same.

This in a letter - read at a meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Brussels. In part, a reference to the preparations - for an current ~~preparations for an~~ all-European security conference. The President adding that it is especially vital - "to maintain and improve our common defenses in these times."

DALLAS

Dallas, Texas - the Reverend W. Sterling Cary of
New York City ^{today} was elected ~~today~~ the new president of the
National Council of Churches. The Reverend Mr. Cary -
first Black ever to hold that post. Succeeding the Reverend
Dr. Cynthia Wedel - who was herself the Council's first
woman president.

PEARL HARBOR

December Seventh, Nineteen-Forty-One - "a day that will live in infamy." December Seventh, Nineteen-Seventy-Two - the thirty-first anniversary of Japan's devastating attack on Pearl Harbor.

At the same time, a report today that a special Navy crew - has just been given the job of cleaning up Pearl Harbor. This to include the removal of derelicts, debris and sunken barges - still left over from Pearl Harbor Day. ^{However} ~~But~~ the Navy ^{says the} ~~stressing the~~ two rusted battleships - will remain untouched.

One - the U.S.S. Arizona; and the other - the U.S.S. Utah; both of which - are resting on the bottom; both ~~of~~ ~~which are~~ now memorials - and coffins - to more than a thousand men.

LONDON

Princess Anne's recent fling at fox-hunting ^{was} the
subject of heated debate today in the British House of
Commons. Labor Party backbencher William Price -
accusing the Princess of bestowing "royal patronage upon
acts of blatant cruelty." Adding that "the time has come" -
when the Princess "should see a little less of masters of fox
hounds - and a little more of the lads on the shop floor."

Price's remarks were greeted, however, with cries
of "nonsense" - from Conservatives and Laborites alike.

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^{Many M.P.s}
~~And subsequent speakers~~ leaping to Anne's defense.

- Bill -
Observers further noting that backbencher Price - was the
same man who tried to get the famous "Tom and Jerry"
cartoons banned from British TV. Why? "Too violent" -
said he.

PANTS

We've all heard the fable - about the "the Emperor's new clothes!" Now comes a story - about the President's new pants. A report circulating today at Camp David - that President Nixon had been seen wearing new-style flared slacks - purple, yet - without cuffs. Whereupon newsmen demanding of Press Secretary Ron Ziegler: "Could this really be true?"

Said Ron Ziegler: "I think flared is a little exaggerated." As for color: "I don't know about purple - but some of his slacks are blue." And cuffs? "Oh, some of his slacks don't have cuffs on them", - Said Ziegler. ~~Adding~~, after all - "he's ^a regular guy."