

Mon, Dec. 22 - '69.

CAPITOL HILL

fb
At the top of the news tonight - tax reform. The House approving today - the most sweeping new tax package in modern history. Passing it on to the Senate - where final approval was likewise assured.

As it stands now - the product of a weekend House-Senate conference committee - the new tax bill ^{would} ~~granting~~ tax reductions to practically everyone. It also provides for a fifteen per cent increase in Social Security benefits - while closing a number of tax loopholes.

Next question: Will the President approve it - or will he veto it? And the answer to that - we'll ~~just~~ have to wait ^{for the answer.} ~~and see.~~

HELSINKI

A toast today - at Helsinki. U.S. and Russian negotiators - saluting ^{their - mutual} successful completion of the first phase of Strategic Arms Limitations Talks. At the same time, ^{they were} announcing plans for a full-scale parley - to begin April Sixteen in Vienna. Russia's Valdimir Semenov - pledging to "strive towards a mutually acceptable agreement." Gerard Smith, for the U.S., adding that the time has come - to devote "our resources and talents more to solving the problems of modern society."

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Looking ahead, the Vienna meeting is expected to give first priority - to discussions dealing with MIRV multi-warhead missiles - also, sophisticated anti-missile defense systems. As for results though - officials admit it will probably take years.

NHA TRANG

In Vietnam - a country that has already endured much
- still another tragedy today. A tragedy - touching the hearts
of millions: ^{You may have heard how} ~~with~~ a crippled Air Vietnam passenger plane ~~was~~
attempting ~~to make~~ a crash-landing at Nha Trang: ^{But, it} ~~only to~~
~~spin~~ ^{spun} off an airport runway - plow^{ed} through a nearby
shantytown area, ^{and} end^{ed} up in a kindergarten school - where
it finally exploded in a mass of flame.

Police later reporting - perhaps as many as a hundred-
and-twenty-five dead. These said to include the plane's
sixty or so passengers - also, an estimated twenty-five
^{local} ~~shantytown~~ residents - also, forty-to-fifty little children.-

They're not sure yet exactly how many. In any event ^{it's by far} ~~the~~
^{the} worst ~~single~~ airplane accident - in Vietnamese history.

WAR FOLLOW NHA TRANG

Elsewhere in Vietnam - the war continues, ^{with} ~~marked~~
by the ~~usual death and destruction - running all the way~~
~~from the D.M.Z. to the Mekong Delta.~~

~~There is, nonetheless~~ a brighter side, including
~~today~~ a double treat for the men of America's "Big
Red One" Division. To begin with - a report ^{that} the full
division may soon be headed home. And, ~~then~~ a visit from
Bob Hope - ^{with} ~~bringing~~ his sixth annual Christmas show, ~~to~~
Vietnam.

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Oh yes, and with Bob Hope
~~By the way, the Hope troupe featured~~ a special surprise
guest: Astronaut Neil Armstrong - the first man to set
foot on the moon; who observed that his most anxious
moment on the flight of Apollo-Eleven - was "when the door
of the washroom jammed."

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - with regard to the Middle East - an expression of hope today. U.N. Secretary General U Thant predicting Big Four agreement on a new Mideast peace plan - hopefully, by the ~~end~~^{middle} of next month. An agreement that should be sufficient - said he - to permit a resumption of U.N. mediation efforts between the Arabs and Israelis.

Nothing concrete as yet - U Thant admitted. He just "had a feeling" - said he.

RABAT FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

Meanwhile, that Arab summit conference went into its second day - at Rabat, Morocco. Today's session supposedly aimed at achieving - an all-Arab, all-inclusive military, political and diplomatic policy. A lofty goal - though hardly likely in view of past performances.

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Nevertheless, Arab guerilla leader Kamal Nasr taking advantage of the setting - to level another attack at the U.S., ^{saying} ~~asserting~~ the American "vested interests" - are fully supporting Israel. ^{And adding :-} ~~Nasr further stating~~ "I don't believe there is any difference # between the Israeli government and the American government."

generally considered the Israeli government as...
General... and...
...

TEL AVIV FOLLOW RABAT

~~Reverse side - from Tel Aviv, where~~ Israeli Premier Golda Meir - summoned her Cabinet into emergency session today. Purpose - said she: To discuss "American pressure on Israel" // aimed at forcing a withdrawal "from occupied Arab territories." ~~Madame Meir~~ adding that this has caused - a serious "deterioration of relations between the two countries"

Another
~~A later~~ development: Israel ordering a shake-up today - in its military command; including the appointment of General Ariel Sharon - as new commander of the southern front against Egypt. The' forty-one-year-old Sharon - generally considered the Israeli equivalent of America's General "~~Blood and Guts~~" Patton.



extra

ADD TEL AVIV

Now the latest: Israel turning down flat tonight--
the three main provisions of that new American peace plan.
Reason--said Tel Aviv--"because inherently they damage
the chances for peace."

*which means that she could face expulsion--from the
British House of Commons. However, she was cheered by way
at the start of her term--and she was cheered by way
supporters as she walked from the courtroom.*

LONDONDERRY

extra

At Londonderry in the North of Ireland--Bernadette Devlin was found guilty as charged today. Her sentence promptly set at six months in jail--for inciting to riot during Catholic and Protestant clashes last August;

which means that she could face expulsion--from the

British House of Commons. *there was an immediate appeal* However, ~~an appeal~~ *is being*

to delay

in prison.

~~at~~ the start of her term--~~and~~ She was cheered by ~~her~~

supporters as she walked from the courtroom.

WASHINGTON

~~A related item - from Washington.~~ The U.S. State Department announced today - a resumption of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; one of seven Moslem nations that broke with the U.S. - in the midst of that Nineteen-Sixty-Seven Arab-Israeli war; ~~and now the first to take up again - where we originally left us.~~

As for the others - Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Algeria and Yemen - we are ready to resume relations with them whenever they want - said a State Department spokesman. He added, however, that the outlook at the moment - is not - ~~repeat - not~~ especially optimistic.

LONDON

The question - a perennial favorite: What one book would you most like to have - if you were marooned on a desert island? Today's answer - from Britain's Field Marshal Lord Montgomery; who picks as his first choice a book called - "The History of Warfare." Author - you guessed it: Monty himself.

However, the famed general said he would use his book - not as a war primer but rather a personal guide; a ~~means~~^{means} of pondering the age-old question - of "how to stop people from fighting." Britain's greatest living war hero - another disciple of "peace on earth, good will to man."

MISTLETOE

From London ^{comes} ~~again~~ a business report ~~today~~ telling of record Christmas sales this year - with one notable and perhaps surprising exception. British ^{trade} officials citing a sharp drop-off - in the import and sale of mistletoe; ~~and~~ this seen by some - as another sign of the changing morals^s of British society.

Case in point - a discouraged mistletoe dealer who was heard to remark: "These days - who needs ~~an~~ excuse for kissing!" *What say you John Shafer?*

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LEBANON

we have
From Lebanon, Ohio λ the story ~~today~~ of a wedding -
~~well~~, novel, to say the least. Seventy-year-old Lee Amburgy,
a widower, taking as his bride - *and everybody* seventy-one-year-old Mrs.
Floyd Amburgy, the widow of the groom's late brother and
thus his former sister-in-law. Those in attendance including
the couple's twenty-three children - twelve of his and
eleven of hers; also, a goodly number of their grandchildren
- now numbering *and* fifty-five, in all. Indeed, the ceremony
was actually performed by the Reverend Kash Amburgy - the
bride's son, the groom's nephew. And that's the *how?* way they
"keep it in the family" - ~~in~~ in Lebanon, Ohio.