

UPI Roundup

Colby swears off illegal snooping

WASHINGTON — William Colby promised Monday the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) will not become involved in domestic intelligence gathering if he is confirmed as director. Colby told the Senate Armed Services Committee he would welcome a change in the 1947 National Security Act to spell out more clearly that the CIA is confined to foreign intelligence-gathering. Colby said he was "quite prepared to leave this job" if ordered by superiors to involve the agency in any illegal activity. But he noted the CIA has numerous functions to perform within the United States — including collection of intelligence information on foreign governments from U.S. citizens and surveillance of foreigners in the United States. The CIA post was vacated after five months by James Schlesinger, 44, sworn in Monday as the new Secretary of Defense.

Strike mars famed transit system

OAKLAND, Calif. — A strike halted the trains on America's newest mass transit system Monday, driving thousands of commuters back to their cars and into massive traffic jams. The Bay Area Rapid Transit system, first new regional transit network built in the nation in 65 years, was completely closed by the walkout of 1,200 employees demanding pay equalization. The 35,000 passengers who use BART's elevated and subway trains on the east side of San Francisco Bay caused traffic tie-ups on freeways parallel to the tracks during the early morning commuting hours. An official of the clerical and maintenance employees union vowed, "It will be a long one (strike)."

Libya presses for merger with Egypt

CAIRO — Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy is pressing for a total merger of his country with Egypt despite misgivings here. During his visit to Egypt this week, Khadafy has been told by Cairo leaders that a merger would be best carried out in stages. Some Egyptian politicians have expressed doubts about the "cultural revolution" that Khadafy has launched in Libya. Khadafy defended the "cultural revolution" in Libya as a "continuation of your own Egyptian revolution." In debate with the leadership of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's sole political party, Khadafy declared, "There is no such thing as a partial merger." He and President Anwar Sadat agreed 18 months ago the two countries would vote in referenda Sept. 1 on plans for a full merger.

Caroline, 15, helps film Appalachia

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Caroline Kennedy, described by the natives as "just plain folks," is helping a camera crew film a documentary this summer on the rugged Appalachian coal miners in East Tennessee. The 15-year-old daughter of the late President John Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is helping with the camera work and interviews with miners in the mountain community of Clairfield near the Kentucky border. "She's as pretty as a silver dollar," said Ed Marlow, a miner whose little mountain cabin was one of the places Caroline has visited. "She dressed in faded old blue jeans with patches on them," another man said. "There have been times when people have been standing around in a store talking about Caroline visiting the area and she has been right there and they wouldn't even know it." A woman who has helped with some of the film work said, "You would never know she's the daughter of a late President and one of the richest women in the world. She goes up and down these mountains just like us other hillbillies." The documentary is being financed by federal funds under the Federation of Communities in Service.

GOP has new money rules

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate Republican Campaign Committee said Monday it is implementing strict new campaign financing rules, including a ban on cash contributions in excess of \$25.

Committee Chairman William Brock of Tennessee said the rules were designed to "guarantee that Republican campaigns in 1974 will be absolutely open to full public view."

Brock pledged the committee "will neither participate in nor condone the practice of 'laundering' of campaign contributions"—the practice of

making political donations through a third person to hide the original source of the contribution. All committee funds will be maintained in a single bank, Brock said. Individual Senate campaigns will be encouraged to do the same.

Brock said the rules were designed to outlaw the existence of special accounts, as well as large cash holdings.

The rules also require that committee receipts and disbursements "will be made available to the public on a regular basis."

Enjoy a booming 4th of July celebration—it may be the last

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Wednesday may be the last Fourth of July celebrated — legally at least — by the bang and pop of firecrackers.

The federal government is in the process of taking comments on its proposal for a nationwide ban on everything but a few "safe" fireworks, including sparklers, pinwheels, Roman candles, and fountains.

The only restriction on fireworks nationwide currently is a ban on anything that contains an explosive charge in excess of two grains.

This makes cherry bombs and giant firecrackers illegal. However, they continue to be available on a bootleg basis. There is some doubt that even the proposed new regulations would eliminate this market entirely.

Comments on the proposals which were made public May 16, have been coming in to the new Consumer Product Safety Commission. It will have the final say on the regulations.

Firecracker fans have started petition drives in

some parts of the country to protest the proposals.

One petition, signed by 70 persons, mostly from Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas and Mississippi, said it had been a "tradition since the founding of our nation to celebrate Independence Day with the booming of cannons and the display and the shooting of fireworks."

"Let us not lose any more of our dwindling freedom," the petitioners wrote.

Fireworks manufacturers also have spoken out against the proposed ban. W.J. Taylor of Kansas City, Kan., president of Taylor Fireworks Co., said that most accidents involve the larger fireworks.

Among the supporters of the ban is the American Lung Association of Hawaii which said fireworks are "responsible for a severe air pollution episode each year during the Independence Day celebration."

One parent, Mrs. Edith Lipsword of Jefferson, Ore., wrote she favored the ban because her 8-year-old son was injured by a "smoke bomb."

Suicides prompt POW follow-up

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Two of the 566 freed American prisoners of war already have been the victims of apparent suicide. The Defense Department hopes this week to start finding out in detail how the others are adjusting to freedom.

Most of the freed prisoners have been on home or convalescent leave for the past month. They now are starting to report back to military hospitals for follow-up examinations.

For some of the men, it will be the last step before moving on to new assignments or leaving the service. For others, it may mark the start of long-term programs to help them readjust to life at home.

"What we get from them will give us much better information about the readjustment problems," one Pentagon official said. "With so many of them out on convalescent leave, all we have now is preliminary information."

Two of the men did not adjust. Air Force Capt. Edward Allen Brundo and Marine Sgt. Abel Larry Kavanaugh apparently committed suicide. Brundo, who had been a prisoner since 1965, was found dead of an overdose of sedatives at his mother-in-law's home in Harrison, N.J., June 3. Kavanaugh, 24, a prisoner for five years, shot himself in the head at his home near Denver last Wednesday. He had been charged by a senior officer with collaborating with the enemy.

Officials acknowledged the suicides could be the first of several. They pointed out prisoners held in Oriental camps in past wars have shown a suicide rate 50 per cent higher than the U.S. national average and 30 per cent higher than servicemen not taken captive.

Doctors have found so far that the returned POWs were in worse

shape—both mentally and physically—than it appeared when they got off planes that brought them home. Among other problems that have turned up:

—Many experienced flights of euphoria, bouts of depression and seemingly unjustifiable fright. This was particularly true for those men held the longest, some for seven and a half years or more said Dr. Richard Wilbur, chief Pentagon physician.

—Widespread marital problems. Wilbur reported 10 per cent of the married ex-POWs were getting divorced and said "everybody believes there will be more."

"A lot of difficulty is moving back into the family," Wilbur said. "They have been gone for many years. The family has gotten along pretty well without them."

After Brundo's death, Wilbur said, one of the other POWs voluntarily returned to the hospital and three of the approximately 12 men thought to have serious post-imprisonment problems were ordered to return.

Mindful of office

—wary of forum

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (UPI) — President Nixon will remain silent on the Watergate Affair until the current phase of Senate hearings ends in August, the White House said Monday.

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler flatly ruled out any Nixon appearance before the Watergate grand jury or any testimony by Nixon, written or oral, to the Senate Watergate committee.

In a lengthy exchange with newsmen, Ziegler said Nixon would hold no news conferences until August. He said the President "will address the Watergate matter in what he considers an appropriate forum" after the Senate panel winds up its initial hearings that month.

"The President feels he has a responsibility to the office of the presidency and to the separation of powers under the Constitution," Ziegler said.

"The President will not appear before the committee and will not respond to any specific request to discuss the Watergate matter because he feels he has a responsibility to maintain the prerogative of the Executive Branch."

The Senate Committee has indicated that its hearings will extend into 1974 and be divided into a Watergate phase, an investigation into other alleged political espionage, and investigation into campaign finances.

Bombing escalates despite agreement with Congress

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon Monday announced a sharp increase in the U.S. bombing of Cambodia, but denied it violated a presidential agreement with Congress not to widen the war without provocation before Aug. 15.

A Defense Department spokesman, William Beecher, said the number of daily tactical bombing strikes had increased more than 30 per cent since the middle of last week to a level of over 200 per day—a record high since the Jan. 27 Vietnam ceasefire.

On most days since the increase, the number of tactical strikes has run "in the low 200s," Beecher said. He refused to say what the maximum number for any one day had been.

Beecher said the clearing of

monsoon rains and a simultaneous increase in efforts by Communist troops to cut roads near Phnom Penh prompted the activity by U.S. fighter-bombers.

He said there had been no corresponding increase in the number of B-52 bombing raids, which have been running about 40 a day.

This increase in number or tactical strikes took place while President Nixon and Congress were working toward a compromise agreement, signed into law Sunday, to end the bombing Aug. 15. Both houses of Congress initially had demanded an immediate halt. Pentagon sources said Congress knew about the new bombing raids—even though they had not been made public—when the compromise was approved.

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