

NATIONAL NOTES

broken rib. The thing moved." Two sportswriters in New York reported that they had seen Spinks dancing up a storm after the fight in a Las Vegas discotheque, and now it is reported that Spinks—in what *New York Times* sportswriter Red Smith calls "the fastest recovery in the history of medicine"—has signed for two exhibition fights in Latin America at the end of March.

But it doesn't look like anyone will strip Spinks of his license to fight. "They can take his title," Ali said, "but if they take his license, he can't make no money, and they remember how much I lost when they took mine away."

Spinks may not "float like a butterfly," but his dollars sure do dance. □

Trust Busting

The states of Missouri and Nevada have filed suits against the National Organization for Women under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, accusing NOW of conspiring with other organizations to withhold trade from the states. NOW is conducting a boycott of states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, urging individuals and organizations to withhold tourist and convention business.

"The boycott isn't a conspiracy to restrain trade because we're not getting any economic gain from the boycott," Sandra Porter, NOW Action Center staff person on the boycott, maintains. "A boycott is a traditional political tactic, part of grassroots organizing. Suits like these have never been a successful legal method of challenging a boycott. It's just a way of harassing NOW."

The suits against NOW are an indication of the effectiveness of the boycott. The American Nurses Association, for example, canceled plans to hold its convention of 15,000 members in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1981. □

Temporary Truce Over Troopers

Lowry, Minn. On March 10, Governor Rudy Perpich withdrew state troopers from the fields around this town where they had been sent to keep farmers and community residents from obstructing the building of a high-voltage power line across the farmlands.

Governor Perpich decided to withdraw

the troopers after some of the protesters announced that they planned to stop civil disobedience actions. Horseback occupation of construction sites and disruption of surveying crews began in late December.

For three years, area residents have tried to halt the building of the 400-kilovolt cable whose potential hazards, they argue, have not been adequately researched. On March 15, farmers and other area residents marched to St. Paul, the capital, to ask the governor to call a one-day hearing with state legislators so that they might present their case for a moratorium on the power line until a "science court" of experts can rule on the safety of the line.

Governor Perpich refused to make any commitment about an audience with the legislature, so sentiment for renewed civil disobedience may grow. "After getting nowhere with the governor," argues Don Olson, an activist with Live Wire, an urban support group working with the farmers, "people are going to go back to the fields." □

The L.A. "Freep" is Dead

Los Angeles, Ca. The *Los Angeles Free Press*, one of the oldest "alternative" newspapers in the nation, and also the most recent acquisition of Hustler publisher—and born-again Christian—Larry Flynt, has been shut down indefinitely.

Managing Editor Ron Ridenour reports that the decision was made by Flynt corporation executives in consultation with the tycoon's wife Althea, because the paper was losing money hand over fist. Ridenour said the executives did not want to continue the losing operation while Flynt himself, the victim of an assassination attempt on March 6, remains in critical condition.

Incidentally, the last issue of the *Free Press*—always a source of controversy—may be one of its most controversial. Ridenour said the issue, dated March 18, was scheduled to run excerpts from a pirated copy of the unpublished manuscript of Los Angeles Police Department ex-Chief (and Republican gubernatorial hopeful) Ed Davis's magnum opus *Hang 'Em at the Airport*.

But on March 13, a Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner issued an injunction barring the "Freep" from publishing the story. Ridenour called the prior restraint a "fascist tactic," similar to the U.S. government's effort to block publi-

cation of the Pentagon Papers.

"Unfortunately, we are not in a good position now to defy that order," he said. Instead, according to Ridenour, the last issue will contain a story on the court's order, complete with white spaces where portions of the manuscript would have been quoted. □

The "Authentic" Edition

New York. Haldeman's done it; so have Erlichman, Dean, Woodward and Bernstein, and Theodore White. Officials and reporters who have lived through the Watergate period have offered their version of that complex and turbulent era. But no one can write about Watergate better than the man who ruled the kingdom of the cover-up: Richard Nixon.

"For centuries to come, scholars, historians and psychologists will turn to *Memoirs* as the one account that is indispensable to a balanced understanding of



the Nixon years," says a release from Grosset and Dunlap, the firm that is publishing the former President's new book.

While he is balancing our understanding, Nixon will be making money. Besides selling the regular \$19.95 edition of the 1,200-page book, Grosset and Dunlap is offering "autographed editions" for \$50 and \$250. While one gets a leather slipcase and special binding for \$50, those with a penchant for the "definitive" can purchase a leather-bound, 22-carat-gold-ornamented edition signed by Nixon himself and bearing a "certificate of authenticity" (just to be sure). □