

Read 30 May 1972

You Heard It!

By Art Buchwald

"I can't believe I heard the *whole* thing!"

"You heard it, Ralph."

"I can't believe I heard the *whole* thing!"

"Ralph, take an Alka Seltzer and go to bed."

"Did he really say he was going to mine the Haiphong Harbor and bomb all the railroads around Hanoi?"

"He said it, Ralph. Now go to sleep."

"Did he really say it's up to the Soviet Union to get us out of the war?"

"I heard him, Ralph. That's what he said. He said we were more than generous with our peace offer, and all the other side did was commit naked aggression."

"Naked aggression? Oh, my stomach is killing me."

"I told you to take an Alka Seltzer and come to bed."

"I've taken four Alka Seltzers; it doesn't help. I can't believe I heard the *whole* thing."

"Ralph, maybe it's not that bad. Maybe the mines that were dropped around Haiphong were made by the same people who put out the GM and Ford cars that had to be recalled. Maybe the mines will have to be recalled, too."

"You're just trying to cheer me up. I knew he'd do something stupid if he saw 'Patton' more than four times."

"Ralph! That's no way to talk about the President of the United States! He has asked for our support in this great hour of crisis."

"I've been supporting him. Don't you remember that I hung out the American flag during his invasion of Cambodia? That didn't do a damn bit of good."

"But Ralph, he had to do it, or no President of the United States would be able to travel around the globe with respect anymore."

"Suppose there is no globe to travel around?"

"Ralph, the President knows what he's doing. He's being advised by the Pentagon, and they haven't been wrong on the war so far. Turn out the lights."

"Maybe we should order blackout curtains?"

"Ralph, you're over-reacting. The President has the situation under control. Henry Kissinger wouldn't let him do it if it weren't safe."

"I think I'll write a letter to my senator."

"It doesn't do any good, Ralph. Nixon doesn't ask the Senate what he should do when the honor of the United States is at stake."

"Who does he ask?"

"Billy Graham and Bob Hope."

"I can't believe I heard the *whole* thing."

"Ralph, you heard it. I saw you hearing it. Take another Alka Seltzer and try to dream that Johnson is still President."

"Suppose it doesn't work? Suppose the North Vietnamese succeed in their offensive? What will he do then?"

"He's got a secret plan, Ralph. That's why he's President. If this doesn't work, the Joint Chiefs of Staff will present him with a whole new set of options, and you know what they'll say to the President?"

"What?"

"They'll say, 'Try it, you'll like it.'"