

By Russell Baker

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—The White House is attacked by a stolen helicopter.

The main subject of conversation in the salons of the Eastern Seaboard is gasoline.

A summons for the President of the United States to testify in a criminal court in California is lost eight days in the United States mail.

A cultural revolution just begun in China attacks Confucius, Beethoven, Lin Piao, the Italian movie maker Antonioni, Franz Schubert, Jonathan Livingston Seagull and Owen Lattimore, a scholar who was attacked by American McCarthyites a generation ago on the ground that he was sympathetic to Communism.

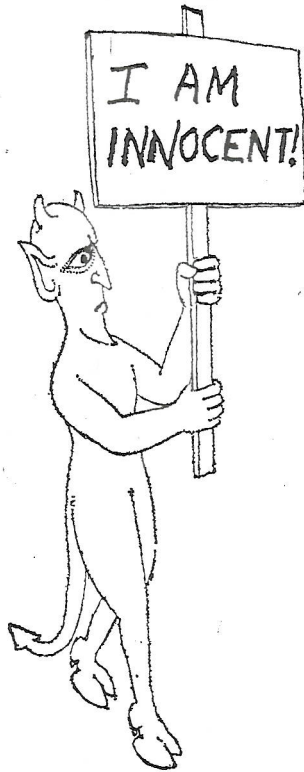
The president of the United States declares on National television that he is not a crook.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the writer who wanted to stay in Russia, is thrown out by the Soviet Government. Valery S. Panov, the dancer with the Kirov Ballet, who wants to leave Russia, is compelled by the Government to stay.

Shortly after the President tells Congress he wants more done to preserve the right of privacy the Government subpoenas telephone records from A.T.&T, to find out which persons newspapermen have been calling up.

After years of refusing to import Cuban cigars because we don't like Cuba's foreign policy, Americans accuse the Arabs of blackmail for cutting our oil imports because they don't like our foreign policy.

OBSERVER



A gas pumper in New York is attacked three times in one day by knife-wielding women.

The first novelist in literary history to have enjoyed Secret Service protection is Spiro Agnew. A retired Vice President of the United States who copped a plea on income-tax fraud, Mr. Agnew is said to be a cinch to

clear big money from his forthcoming novel about a Vice President. He goes golfing in Palm Springs, Calif., under Secret Service protection.

All over the United States people say they have been invaded by the devil.

John Mitchell, the man who was made Attorney General to restore law and order in the United States, goes on trial on charges of perjury, conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

The Government is trying to get Americans to reduce their dependence on the automobile, so it budgets \$4-billion for highway construction this year.

Charles Colson, who once said he would walk over his grandmother for Richard Nixon, says he has found Christ. Rennie Davis, former apostle of New-Left radicalism, becomes an apostle of the 16-year-old Guru Maharaj Ji, "the perfect master." Gen. Alexander Haig, the President's right-hand man, suggests there may be "a sinister force" capable of erasing tape recordings inside the White House.

The Secret Service wiretaps the President's brother.

George Washington's birthday is changed from Feb. 22 to any convenient Monday in February. Cape Kennedy is changed back to Cape Canaveral, and Veterans Day is being changed back to Nov. 11, which used to be Armistice Day.

The Pentagon is caught filching classified papers from the White House, which sponsors a burglary to search for psychiatric data on a man who has given classified Pentagon papers to the press.

All this describes the condition we call sanity.