

Notes on People

Mrs. Gandhi Takes Policy Walk

Drums, cymbals, dancing, chanting and some tears greeted Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** of India yesterday as she walked a mile through the village of Halur, amid dust clouds. The trek, patterned after those made by the late Mohandas K. Gandhi, was one of the first of many "walking campaigns" by Government officials to gain public support for Mrs. Gandhi's 20-point economic program, announced after she had declared a national emergency and began repressive measures last July. "She probed their hearts," the national news agency reported of the hour Mrs. Gandhi spent among the 2,000 villagers. "Women fell at her feet in worshipful admiration or distress."

NYTimes • APR 13 1976

With his mind on possible impeachment as well as on the 25th Amendment, **Melvin R. Laird** helped steer President Richard M. Nixon away from appointing **John B. Connally** Vice President in 1973 and toward **Gerald R. Ford**. Mr. Laird has told an interviewer for The Wisconsin State Journal. "Because of impeachment," the former Secretary of Defense and Wisconsin Representative said, "it was important to have a man acceptable to the [Senators and Representatives] who were voting." Said Mr. Nixon's longtime adviser, "I told him Ford would be confirmed and Connally would not."

In a visit considered important to relations between Spain and the Vatican, Foreign Minister **José Maria Areilza** called on **Pope Paul VI** yesterday. It was the first visit of a Spanish Cabinet minister since the end of the Franco regime. Twenty-year negotiations over the pow-

ers and privileges of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain, which were already foundering in 1974, remained stalled last year when the Pope accused the Franco regime of "murderous repression" in the execution of five convicted terrorists.

Hugh Hefner confirmed yesterday that he is looking for a new president "to run the day-to-day operations" of Playboy Enterprises, Inc. but said he was not "abdicated" and would continue making policy decisions as chairman of the board. Founder of Playboy magazine in 1953, the 49-year-old Mr. Hefner owns about 70 percent of the stock of the entertainment and promotion corporation. A 25 percent salary cut for Mr. Hefner follows other economy moves, including a staff reduction, the \$4 million sale of the Playboy jet plane and an increase of the magazine's newsstand price to \$1.50. Blaming the economy in general, Mr. Hefner also cited competition from magazines that have imitated, or gone far beyond Playboy.

John M. Templeton, past chairman of the board of Princeton Theological Seminary, was at Buckingham Palace with his wife last night when **Prince Philip** presented the \$80,000 Templeton Prize for religious progress to **Leo Cardinal Suenens**, the Roman Catholic primate of Belgium and a leader in church reform. Mr. Templeton, a Tennessee-born Presbyterian, was an investment counselor here and a resident of New Jersey. The Templetons now live in Nassau, the Bahamas. Today the recipient and donors of the prize will be honored at a public ceremony at London's Guildhall, with **Margaret Thatcher**, leader of the

Conservative Party, presiding.

In Westbury, L.I., yesterday the Federal Government, seeking \$140,000 in back taxes from **Clifford Irving**, asked the United States Bankruptcy Court not to grant the writer's bankruptcy petition until the taxes were paid. Mr. Irving, who served in Federal prison for taking money for a hoax biography of Howard Hughes, acted as his own lawyer, saying he could not afford to pay legal fees. Mr. Irving faces Federal charges of having made false financial statements on his income in 1969 and 1971. Judge **William J. Rudin** will make a decision on the Government's tax request some time after the hearing.

In Nashville, 72-year-old **Roy Acuff**, getting to be the grand old man of the Grand Old Opry, is hospitalized for several days of tests. Mr. Acuff did three shows Saturday night, then went to the hospital Sunday because of stomach pains.

Vandals entered Nassau County Democratic headquarters in Mineola sometime between 9:30 A.M. Sunday and 7:30 A.M. yesterday. Although file cabinets and locked closets were not disturbed, the intruders overturned furniture, swept papers off desks and emptied bookshelves onto the floor. They removed pictures from the office walls of **Stanley Harwood**, county Democratic chairman, but the only things they took were two campaign posters of **District Attorney Denis E. Dillon**. Mr. Harwood suggested yesterday that anyone else so eager for a Dillon poster could telephone party headquarters.

LAURIE JOHNSTON