By Jack Anderson

The THECH

More Bang for the Buck

Cold War

The United States and the Soviet Union are preparing for a momentous conflict over Western Europe. The Kremlin believes that the threatening economic breakdown will make Western Europe ripe for revolution. There is open talk in Moscow about the defeat of capitalism in Europe.

Michael Sallay, the No. 2 man in the politburo, has taken charge of the under- cover operations in Western Europe. He has already strengthened the Kremlin's relations with the Communist movements in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. His aim is to take advantage of Western Europe's economic troubles in order to bring the Communists to power.

Washington is fully aware of the Kremlin's activities and is taking measures to prevent a Communist takeover of Western Europe. The word has gone out to our European allies that the Soviet-American divorce doesn't mean they should relax their vigil against Communism.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, during his recent visit to Rome, urged Italian leaders not to admit the Communists into a coalition government. Kissinger's strong opposition reportedly prevented an accommodation between the Christian Democrats and Communists.

Both Washington and Moscow, meanwhile, are still pushing peaceful coexistence. But behind the scenes, they are girding for a new "Cool War" over Western Europe.

Doctor's Debate

The medical profession is in an uproar over ex-President Nixon's phlebitis operation, which almost resulted in his death. His treatment has become the hottest controversy in medical circles.

The chief physician in the case, Dr. John C. Lungren, has been sharply criticized for performing the operation while Nixon's blood was thin from anticoagulants. Dr. Lungren's choice of the vein was shifted off to prevent the movement of blood clots has also been questioned.

But the biggest issue is whether Dr. Lungren should have called in specialists. Some doctors say the former President might have avoided a close call if experts in bleeding and clotting had been consulted.

Dr. Lungren has answered his critics, in private, by demanding how they can criticise his decisions with all the facts. He has also argued that too many specialists result in fragmentary care for the patient.

The controversy may be settled by the court-appointed doctors, who will examine Nixon and report their findings to Judge John Sirica.

Washington Whirl

The National Park Service prints up maps, at public expense, over 2,000 miles of trails throughout the country, including the Appalachian Trail, which is the longest in the world. The State Dept's "freedom of information" file is a veritable library, equipped with over 5,000 miles of trails. The U.S. Army has been used to map the United States, and even the U.S. Navy has mapped the world.

On a recent Miami flight, a straw- duster passenger, suspicious of the passenger with the oldest penny and the one with the most credit cards, the straw duster was rear-ended by a second bottle went to a man carrying 17 bottles.

The Humane Society is trying to get some animal films classified "R" so they'll lose money. The animal lovers also want to get the worst films banned in interstate commerce so they can be shown only in the state where they are made . . . Alaska game wardens recently bagged a preacher, Radio evangelist Gar Ted Armstrong was caught illegally molesting a moose. He forfeited over $500 fine and the moose was served up to schoolchildren.

STUDENT GOVT.

In Case of Insomnia—

Warning! Caution!

extolling its virtues or denouncing its lack

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of Insomnia—

More Bang for the Buck

WASHINGTON — The new Congress, with its 767 new faces, is expected to cut military spending. The liberals would rather spend the money to feed the hungry and find places for the homeless.

President Ford has promised his military chiefs, however, that he will hold the line for the defense budget. He will accept moderate, but not deep cuts, he told the generals.

He urged the armed forces to take the lead by cutting out the fat. The Army, for example, is 30 per cent heavy with brass. Consequently, Pentagon insiders say, the Army is in a "reduction-in-force" next year. They claim, in words of one high-ranking official, "be damned bloody." The Army is also weighted down with support troops, who perform services for one another, without adding anything to the Army's fighting power.

Under the President's prodding, the Army will start moving support troops into combat units. The goal, one again, will be to get more bang for the buck.

Copepant Congress

If Congress were given a moment over its own budget, meanwhile, the taxpayers' burden might be lightened a bit more. The political class of election year killed a hopeful-for-our-increase for the federal budget, but they quietly granted themselves huge allowances, their ,425,000 annual salaries.

Each congressman now receives $6,500 a year for stationery. This is almost double the figure of two years ago. The taxpayers, moreover, are permitted to pocket any surplus beyond what they need to accumulate.

Without failure, the lawmakers also received increased allowances for office personnel, in their home districts, telephone service, postage and staff. The additional cost to the taxpayer will run to several million dollars.

But in the latest tax reform bill, furthermore, is a provision that would boost the deductions a congressman can take for his living expenses in Washington.

These are but the latest additions to a fringe benefit package that would make a union boss drool with envy. Congressmen get all the free food, catering services, free potted plants, gymnasium facilities, picture-framing services and various patriotic and political photographs.

In short, the legislators are not likely to feel the pinch of the tight economy until they visit their districts.