

L.T., PLOUGH, PROMO, PROMO. JANUARY 1, 1968

(Dallas Townsend sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A far-reaching New Year's resolution comes today from the LBJ Ranch; with President Johnson pledging a bold new plan -- for shoring up the American dollar; also -- strengthening the U.S. trade position.

Promised ingredients including: One -- a mandatory curb -- on all new investment abroad; two -- a voluntary two-year restriction -- on all non-essential travel outside the western hemisphere -- plus additional overseas measures -- designed to improve the U.S. balance of payments position -- by about Three Billion dollars over the coming year.

Turning to domestic matters -- the President vowing increased pressure -- for a "voluntary program of wage-price controls." Also promising to make his long-sought ten per cent tax surcharge -- the first order of business when

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Congress reconvenes later<sup>ly</sup>this month.

"The first line of defense of the dollar -- is the strength of the American economy" -- said the President.

Adding: "We're going to put all the muscle this Administration has -- behind the dollar -- to keep our financial house in order."

Congressional reaction to Mr. Johnson's new ~~new~~ economic program -- overwhelmingly favorable.

## VIETNAM

Halfway round the world -- in Vietnam -- the "truce that wasn't" has officially ended. With the U.S. Command still trying to tabulate the total cost -- of that thirty-six hour so-called "ceasefire."

A preliminary report today showing that Viet Cong troops broke the truce -- exactly sixty-six times before it was half over. Killing twenty-six Allied soldiers -- and wounding sixty-nine. Most of these casualties -- occurring in the worst ceasefire violation; a Communist human wave assault -- on South Vietnamese Marines stationed in the Mekong Delta.

Saigon officials later claiming that U.S. planes in the area -- were denied permission to bomb ~~the~~ the charging enemy. This -- supposedly to prevent a ceasefire violation by the U.S. The U.S. Air Force tonight ordering a full investigation -- to find out why the American planes did not help out -- if, indeed, they did not.

Hanoi Radio today broadcast a statement by North Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nooy en Dwee Trin -- declaring that his governmetn would talk peace with the U.S. only after an unconditional halt of U.S. bombing and all other acts of war. This statement is being closely examined in Washington -- where CBS News diplomatic correspondent Marvin Kalb calls it very significant. But whether it indicates a ~~1~~ real change in North Vietnam's attitude on peace talks is not yet clear.

VATICAN'

More on the war -- from Pope Paul at the Vatican. The Pontiff saying he is "hoping against hope" -- for "fair negotiations" to end the fighting in Vietnam. Further asserting his own belief -- that such negotiations are "desirable by all;" and could "in a practical way" -- guarantee the independence and liberty of that embattled land.

## GRAND TETON

Twelve daring mountain climbers remain trapped tonight -- some seven hundred feet from the summit of Grand Teton Mountain in Northwestern Wyoming. The climbers huddled together in an iron hut -- in the midst of a driving snowstorm with winds up to fifty miles an hour. Conditions that have prevented them for two days now -- from making a planned final assault on the nearly fourteen thousand-foot peak.

At last report -- expedition leader Paul Petzold was hoping to complete the ascent tomorrow morning; which would make only the third successful winter climb of Grand Teton -- all led by Petzold. However, the same party was forced to turn back last year -- barely a hundred and fifty feet from the summit. With a raging blizzard -- forcing the group to huddle in sleeping bags for six days; until the storm let up -- and they were finally able to get back down.

Summing up: The outcome -- still very much in doubt.

NEW YORK

International Telephone and Telegraph has given up on its plan to merge with the American Broadcasting Company. The announcement today -- from I.T. and T. headquarters in New York. The company giving as its reason -- quote -- "long delays" in securing Federal approval.

I.T. and T. thereby abandoning its bid -- to negotiate the largest broadcasting merger of all ~~it~~ time. Today's action also apparently terminating a Justice Department antitrust suit -- chiefly responsible for those "long delays."

## FARM

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A prediction that nearly a million more farm residents will leave rural America -- during the twelve months beginning today. Cutting American farm population to about eleven million -- lowest ever in U.S. history.

What will we do for food, clothing and so on? No danger there -- says Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman. Pointing out that one single farmer today can clothe and feed nearly forty of his countrymen -- with plenty left over for export. The real danger -- he contends -- in accelerating mass migration to urban centers. With resulting riots such as those in Newark and Detroit -- polluting air such as that in Los Angeles and New York -- not to mention problems in housing, education, traffic and crime found in nearly every big city.

The solution -- says Freeman -- lies in creating jobs, businesses, housing; creating, in short, equal opportunities --



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for both rural and city youngsters. Freeman declaring:

"If we fail to use the space <sup>9</sup> in our <sup>2</sup> countryside -- if we fail to make a place for the people who will inhabit this nation by the year Two Thousand -- we will be committing national suicide."

## POSTAL

Elsewhere in government -- the Post Office department announced plans tonight -- for a new Forty Million-dollar construction project at Kearny, New Jersey. A building designed to be -- the world's "most mechanized postal facility."

When finished in four-years -- the Kearny structure will be as long as three football fields; with six huge sack-sorting machines -- eleven parcel sorting devices -- nearly half-a-mile of truck loading docks -- and more than twelve miles of conveyor belts. A number of similar regional postal facilities are also in the works -- for Chicago, San Francisco and Washington.

## POET

By appointment from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second --/<sup>a</sup>fellow by the name of Cecil Day-Lewis today became Britain's newest Poet Laureate; an honor previously accorded to such giants of literature -- as Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Wordsworth and, most recently, the late John Masefield.

At sixty-three -- Cecil Day-Lewis is virtually unknown as a poet -- even in Britain. Admirers of his early poems including a small select literary set (headed by Winston Churchill and Lawrence of Arabia.)

His later works, however -- known far and wide through the British reading public. Cecil Day-Lewis -- obscure poet -- winning fame and fortune in recent years; as "Nicholas Blake" -- famed author of British detective novels.

LONDON

With horse racing at a standstill in Britain -- because of that epidemic of hoof-and-mouth disease -- it seems the British are willing to bet on almost anything these days. Latest from London today telling of a Soho bookie -- who posted odds on the kind of hat his next customer would be wearing.

The betting set at eight-to-one on a cloth cap -- five-to-one on a bowler -- and six-to-four on no hat at all.

Turned out -- the next customer was an Egyptian -- wearing a fez. And the bookie -- he cleaned up.

Dallas Townsend says Goodnight.