

April 30, 1968 Dallas Townsend

In-again, out-again Nelson Rockefeller of New York - officially in-again in the race for the Republican Presidential nomination. As you must have heard by now - the governor offering himself as a challenger to Richard Nixon - in a news conference today in Albany.

His latest change of heart - stemming from "dramatic and unprecedented events of the past weeks" - said Nelson Rockefeller. Adding: "I now commit myself to seek this office - and so serve our nation - with all my heart and mind and will."

From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - Richard Nixon quick to comment. Asserting that Rockefeller's entry in the race - will "make for a more exciting" convention. Nixon further predicting that Rockefeller's candidacy "will not divide the party" - but rather "unite it behind whoever wins in Miami."

VIETNAM

The War in Vietnam was marked today by a deadly game of cat-and-mouse - in the enemy's heavily-fortified A Shau Valley. Some two thousand South Vietnamese troops - landing by helicopter in the Communist sanctuary; attempting to sever Hanoi's main supply line - from North to South. Only to face a sudden ambush - from well-hidden Viet Cong.

As it turned out though - U.S. air and artillery strikes helped to break up the ambush with minimal losses. In the meantime - government troops linking up with the U.S. First Air Cavalry Division which invaded the valley twelve days ago. Operation Delaware apparently proceeding as planned - to remove a dangerous Communist threat to the city of Hue.

HUE FOLLOW VIETNAM

And from Hue - a grim report from U.S. authorities .

Estimating that Communist troops massacred more than a thousand civilians - during their brief occupation of that city in February. At least half of the victims - said to have been buried alive.

MARCH

At March Air Force Base in California - former President Eisenhower is reported in "excellent spirits" tonight. As he awaits the diagnosis of two heart specialists - flown in by jet from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

As you doubtless know - the General was stricken with chest pains yesterday - after a long round of golf. The specialists now checking blood tests and an electrocardiogram

LONDON

The price of gold on the London bullion market - up again today to a new record level. With a climb of thirty-five cents - raising the current price to Thirty-Nine dollars and ten cents an ounce. Or a gain of two-forty since April First - when the bullion market reopened following a brief holiday.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW LONDON

President Johnson asked Congress today - for approval of a new "paper gold" system of world currency. This to be based on Special Drawing Rights - or S.D.R.'s - against the International Monetary Fund.

The Purpose: To raise from Seventy to Eighty Billion dollars the total amount of currency available for circulation within the free world trading group. Or as the President put it: A means of adding "working capital - to a growing business."

LITTLE ROCK

The Wallaces of Alabama - a tough act to beat. But here come the Johnsons of Arkansas - about to give it a try.

At Little Rock - Jim Johnson filing today as a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate. He'll oppose Senator ^J. William Fulbright - in the latter's bid for re-election. At the same time - Mrs. Jim Johnson filing as a Democratic candidate for governor; seeking to oppose Republican Winthrop Rockefeller - in his bid for re-election.

This Mrs. Johnson's first try - at a major elective office. Her husband though - a former state senator and former state supreme court justice. Also, the man who lost to Winthrop Rockefeller - in Nineteen-Sixty-Six.

DENVER

The University of Denver - scene of today's latest campus demonstration. With about thirty graduate students - staging a sit-in at the registrar's office. Demanding equal rights for graduate students - to run for undergraduate offices.

However, the whole thing - lasting only an hour or so. Taking a cue from this morning's Columbia round-up - Denver police bodily removing the demonstrators. Denver Chancellor Maurice Mitchell later asserting that: "Students who violate the regulations of this university today - will not be members of this university tomorrow."

MAKU

*Earthquake in Iran. Reports from Tehran telling
- of a series of violent tremors; shattering the city of
Maku - in northwest Iran. Casualty figures indicating at
least thirty dead - hundreds injured - and countless left
homeless. With the Shah of Shahs - the Shah of Iran -
personally directing rescue operations.*

STEAMER

A new kind of Stanely Steamer - was suggested today - as perhaps the best solution to auto-produced air pollution. This according to a special research group called - "Resources for the Future." Asserting that "the crippling disabilities of the early steam cars - very slow starts, great bulk, inefficiency and exhorbitant water consumption - have all been overcome." Physicist Robert Ayers noting, for example, that a recent test car - was able to travel a thousand miles on a ten-gallon tank of water.

Well, then - what's holding up production? The nation's automakers - said one physicist. Asserting that the automakers "talk as if they are going into the market" - but only "to discourage anyone else" who might.

If nothing else - "Resources for the Future" thus earning a medal for valor; since its study was financed entirely - by the Ford Foundation. And now a valerous word from Warren Moran...

MOSCOW

Question: Who invented the world's first fire engine?

Answer - according to a Moscow newspaper: A Russian, naturally. Komsomolskaya Pravda today indentifying the inventor - as a Russian mine worker named Frolov. Credited with creating the first fire engine - way back in Seventeen-Sixty-Nine.

Frolov remaining virtually unknown - says the newspaper - because capitalist mine owners scoffed at his invention; putting it "in the archives" - where it has only now been rediscovered.

And that - we are told - is the reason fire engines are painted red.

Good Night.