

PEACE TALKS

February 14, 1968
Dallas Townsend

Good evening everybody.

From Secretary of State Rusk - glum words about the possibility of peace talks. Rusk issuing a statement late today - saying - all explorations to date indicate that North Vietnam has turned down President Johnson's terms for such discussions. The Secretary going on to say - at no time has Hanoi indicated - publicly or privately - that it will refrain from taking Military advantage of any cessation of that bombing of North Vietnam - nor has it shown any interest in preliminary discussions to arrange a general ceasefire.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey says that Rusk statement "takes into account everything we know."

On the other hand, there are some brighter aspects to the picture.

ROME-PARIS

Italian Foreign Minister Fanfani, for one - apparently convinced of the possibility of peace talks. Relaying to

Washington - supposed peace feelers from two North

Vietnamese envoys. While U.N. Secretary General U Thant

was holding a secret meeting - with Hanoi's chief

representative in Paris.

Where will it all lead? Only time can tell. For the

moment - the fighting goes on in Vietnam. With American

bombers slugging away today - at the twelve-foot-thick wall

of that ancient Citadel in the center of Hue. Trying to breach

the last barrier - between attacking U.S. Marines and die-hard

Viet Cong terrorists.

GULF OF TONKIN

Another complication - in the Gulf of Tonkin; where Red Chinese planes were reported to have downed an unarmed U.S. Navy dive bomber.

According to the Pentagon - the plane flying a routine mission; when its navigational equipment went haywire - sending it inadvertently into Chinese air space. Be that as it may - this the eighth U.S. plane so lost - over the past three years. Radio Peking quickly branding the incident - a deliberate "military provocation."

AMMAN

Turned down flat at Cairo - United Nations peace envoy Gunnar Jarring traveled on to Amman today. There conferring with Jordanian officials - in his so far disappointing quest for peace in the Middle East.

A related development - here at home. The State Department announcing plans today - to the importance of maintaining "U.S. and other Western ties to Jordan" - said a State Department spokesman.

OMAHA FOLLOW ALBANY

At Omaha - George Wallace of Alabama was a surprise addition - to the upcoming Nebraska presidential primary. Although he has already designated himself a third party candidate - Wallace is listed officially as a Democrat; by order of Nebraska's Secretary of State - who happens to be a Republican.

This prompting a swift protest - from the Democratic State Chairman. Also from Wallace - who said he was "not a national Democrat" - and had no intention of running in Nebraska. At the same time - Wallace designating as his "interim" Vice Presidential running mate - former Governor Griffin of Georgia.

On the Republican side - "non-candidates" Nelson Rockefeller and Ronald Reagan were also entered today in the Nebraska primary; but they, too - are expected to withdraw.

Warren Moran.

VALENTINES DAY

(not final)

Hi Dallas, and Good Evening Everybody:

I hope - I hope you all remember what important day of the year this is. To make it all the more exciting this St. Valentine's Day does come during Leap Year. So, bachelors beware!

And what is the origin of this exciting day? I'm not sure but I understand that Charles, the Duke of Orleans was the first ever to send a Valentine's Day message to his lady love. Alas, alack, the poor Duke, he had to send it from a cell in the Tower of London, more than five hundred and fifty years ago.

It seems that there was a popular medieval idea that birds selected their mates on February 14. This may have been the origin. Chaucer wrote in his quaint early English: "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's Day, when every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

From the National Geographic in Washington comes

VALENTINES DAY - 2

word that Leap Year originated with St. Patrick, in the Fifth Century, and a Scottish parliament in Leap Year 1228 decreed that "any single man refusing an offer to marriage from a maiden "shall be mulcted in ye sum' of one pound or less according to his means."

And then there was the English common law promulgated in the year 1600, reading as follows: "As oft as lepe yeare doth return ye ladyes have ye privileg of making love to ye men, which they doe either by wordes or by lookes, as to them seemeth proper."

As usual, Lowell Thomas among the spectators -

And what would seemeth proper to you, Dallas, so long.

Lowell...
Oh almost anything that seemeth proper to you, Lowell

LOWELL lead-in

Today at Grenoble - Soviet Russia's renowned husband and wife team - the Protopopovs - won their second straight Olympic gold medal in the pairs figure-skating event. A Soviet pair also won the silver medal - and third place went to a pair from West Germany. Cynthia and Ron Kaufmann - the American pairs champions - both took bad spills on the ice and finished sixth. But our Terry McDermott tied for second place in the Five-hundred-meter speed skating - and American champion Tim Wood advanced from fourth to second place in the compulsory phase of men's figure skating.

As usual, Lowell Thomas among the spectators - perhaps even jotting down a note or two for his latest report. Lowell...

Oh almost anything that seemeth proper to you, Lowell

VALENTINE'S (follow)

A few moments ago, Lowell Thomas was reminding us that this is Valentines Day. And that brings to mind that this is the thirty-ninth anniversary of the most famous or notorious Valentines Day of modern times - at least in Chicago. It was in a garage at twenty-one -twenty-two North Clark Street on Valentines Day, Nineteen-Twenty-Nine - that seven gangsters were lined up against a wall and machine gunned - by members of a rival mob. Why mention this? Well, the garage was torn down in November - but the bricks making up that infamous wall were preserved - and they'll be sent to George Patty, a good store executive in Vancouver. And what does Patty want with them? Oh, he's going to use them to build a wall in his den.

Goodnight.