

L.T. SUSTAINING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1966
(Dallas Townsend -- Sub)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Troubles appear to be piling up for Adam Clayton Powell. With a House subcommittee still examining the affairs of the Education and Labor Committee, which Powell heads -- Republican Representative William Dickinson of Alabama predicting that the Subcommittee will eventually recommend criminal presecution of the Harlem Congressman -- and now CBS News Correspondent Roger Mudd reporting that the House Leadership is convinced that Powell may be unseated in the Ninetieth Congress, and the leadership has apparently opened negotiations with Powell to avoid a bloody fight on opening day. Mudd says the plan involves a compromise to unseat him on the Committee, but to seat him in Congress.

INDIA

Washington hears that the U.S. is taking new steps to aid the starving people of India. Agreeing, it's reported, to ship 900 thousand tons of grain to that country as an interim measure -- while longer-range aid plans are reviewed. A high government source says the grain will be shipped at once -- to reach India during February and March.

Still pending is American action on the Indian request for two Million tons of grain.

AMMAN

The Middle East -- in the throes of still another political crisis tonight; reviving fears of border clashes -- between Arab and Israeli forces.

Official Radio Amman in Jordan -- setting the tension a-building; with an announcement that the government of Jordan -- has just resigned; after long supporting King Hussein -- in his running battle with leftist Arabs.

As yet -- no reason for the resignation. Radio Amman merely saying that Hussein has asked American-educated Premier Wasfi Tell -- to try to form a new government.

Tell, by the way, has had quite a career -- as teacher, tax official, officer in the British Army, Jordanian press director, Ambassador, and Cabinet Minister. All this, leading up to the Premiership, -- by far the toughest job of all. In fact, judging from the savage pressure building up against King Hussein -- it may be too tough.

PRICES

Latest word on the cost of living; it's up again -- one-Tenth of One per cent; according to figures for November announced by the Labor Department.

On the brighter side, however -- the increase is the smallest climb in the last six months.-- Due largely to what the government calls -- a "very considerable decline in retail food prices." Food items purchased in grocery stores -- actually falling Nine-Tenths of a per cent; nearly double the normal drop in food prices -- at this time of the year.

The government refusing to speculate -- on what caused the decline. Still, there's no denying -- it occurred in the midst of a nationwide housewives' protest -- against rising food prices. Proof again of the adage -- "nver underestimate the power of a woman."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

Lowell Thomas is in Alaska tonight -- en route to a holiday reunion with Lowell Junior and his family. And so -- another special report tonight -- on some thoughts along the way. Lowell....

Hello Dallas, and good evening everybody - from Alaska -

In flying up the Alaskan coast I've been reminded that the salmon run this year broke all recent records. On the other side of the Atlantic the time was when Scottish salmon were famous and still are to some extent. But at one time the salmon in Scotland were so plentiful, so cheap that British domestics revolted against a steady diet of salmon, salmon and more salmon. But alas that day has passed.

With the progress of civilization - and the resulting inroads in fishing areas - Scottish salmon has become an expensive delicacy; priced at anywhere from two-thirty a pound on up to six bucks a pound smoked.

A mysterious sickness has suddenly appeared off the Irish coast this last summer and has now spread to Scotland; we're told here in Alaska - killing tens of thousands of fish - threatening the entire species

with extenction, all but wiping out a twenty-five million-a-year tourist trade dependent largely on salmon fishermen.

Cause of the disease - nobody knows. It could be a bacteria - whatever it is - highly infectious; jumping from stream to stream; throughout that part of the world.

And there's another factor here - that heightens the problem. Greenland apparently having discovered the main feeding ground - for Atlantic salmon, are off this - the coast of Greenland - its own territorial waters - further on reducing the salmon population - before they can return to their places of birth in Greenland to spawn again. Up here in Alaska they hope this salmon illness is not spreading around the world.

Once in the pink - Scotland the salmon industry slowly falling deeper and deeper - into the red.

While here in Alaska they've just had the biggest salmon season in a generation. Solong,

MOSCOW FOLLOW THOMAS TAPE

Thank you, Lowell. And speaking of Alaska -- a related item from Moscow. The Soviet News Agency Tass -- indicating it was all a big mistake; for Russia ever to sell Alaska -- to the United States.

The comment in connection with discovery of the notebook -- of a Nineteenth Century Russian adventurer who spent many years in Alaska. The text giving a glowing account -- of Alaskan geography, history, economics and ethnography.

This ample evidence -- said Tass -- that the then-tsarist government should have known what it was giving up; when it parted with the great North Territory -- in Eighteen-Sixty-Seven.

The purchase price of a little over Seven Million dollars -- "next to nothing" -- said Tass. The greatest bargain of the century. And present-day Alaskans would surely agree --among them, do doubt, Lowell Thomas, Jr.

VIETNAM

On the war front -- renewed fighting today along that supposedly demilitarized zone -- between North and South Vietnam. As American forces continued a sweep of the area -- in an attempt to head off a new Communist offensive.

The major action -- in a drenching, monsoon rain. U.S. Marines tangling twice with a battalion-size force of Viet Cong -- apparently trying to infiltrate the South. When the last shot was fired -- the Viet Cong reeling back toward the hills from which they came; a report today from the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi -- that fully one-third of the city's population has been evacuated. An estimated Two Hundred Thousand people -- including nearly every child in the city -- reportedly moved to the countryside. With the North Vietnamese capital itself now said to be on a war footing -- against the possibility of U.S. air attack.

A final word today from the State Department; about

VIETNAM...2

On the same subject -- a revealing story from Peking those two alleged U.S. air raids last week -- on or near -- by way of Hanoi. In the form of a newspaper account -- the Red capital. Emphasizing once again -- American determination not to attack Hanoi.

According to all available evidence -- said a State Department spokesman -- the only targets hit during the raids in question -- "were military targets well outside the city proper." "However, he said, we can not rule out completely -- the possibility of an accident." Adding: "If, in fact, any of our ordinance caused civilian injury or damage -- we regret it."

What about the outlook -- for a negotiated peace? No change -- said the Red Chinese Foreign Minister. Adding that -- "any direct broker -- would only offend both sides."

MANILA FOLLOW VIETNAM

On the same subject -- a revealing story from Peking -- by way of Manila. In the form of a newspaper account -- of remarks attributed to Red China's Vice Premier and Foreign Minister -- Chen Yi; during a recent meeting -- with visiting Filipino business men.

Chen quoted as confirming -- in part -- the U.S. contention that it is really Red China -- that chiefly supports the Communist drive in South Vietnam. China's contribution to the war effort -- said he -- fully "Seventy per cent of the aid now being received by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese." What about the outlook -- for a negotiated peace? No chance -- said the Red Chinese Foreign Minister. Adding that -- "any honest broker -- would only offend both sides."

VATICAN FOLLOW MANILA

Be that as it may -- Pope Paul's annual Christmas message -- another strong plea for an extended truce in Vietnam; to give time for negotiations -- that will lead, hopefully, toward settlement of the conflict.

This a golden opportunity for both sides -- ~~and~~ ^{the} Pope said -- to give the world the "Christmas wonder" of peace on earth. Adding that the only alternative -- is to run the risk of "uncontrollable circumstances" -- that could trigger a nuclear holocaust at any time.

SALISBURY

Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith took a long step today -- toward severing all ties with the British Commonwealth. Smith citing United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia -- at the urging of Britain; saying that they, have made Rhodesia in effect a sovereign, independent republic. **This** renouncing its loyalty to Queen Elizabeth -- as it has already renounced its loyalty to the British government. But he didn't actually declare it a republic.

Smith's statement -- taken with a grain of salt in London. Government sources calling it -- "a lot of gobbledegook." Adding that the Smith government remains illegal -- and all its actions as well.

NEW YORK

This next -- a statement from an organization known as Keep America Beautiful Incorporated. Perhaps not exactly in the Christmas spirit -- but, nevertheless, pertinent to the season.

Keep America Beautiful predicting that "most Americans will be careful" this Christmas -- "to preserve the country's greatest gift -- its beauty." Adding, however, that "enough of us will be careless -- in disposing of wrapping paper, gift boxes and other Yule-tide litter -- to mar an otherwise glowing season." So careless, in fact, as to leave enough litter around the country over the Christmas weekend -- to fill Santa's ~~bag~~^{bag} an estimated Three Million times.

So says -- Keep America Beautiful. What Santa says -- when he discovered all that trash in his bag -- we'll have to wait and see.

Dallas Townsend says Good Night.