

TUES. JULY 23, 1968
(Dallas Townsend)

Good evening everybody.

The Senate **J**u-diciary **C**ommittee wants Abe Fortas to return for further hearings - on his nomination to be Chief Justice. Now an Associate Justice, Fortas finished four days of testimony last Friday. Late this afternoon, Republican Senator Thurmond of South Carolina asked that Fortas be invited back - for additional questioning about some of the decisions in which he has taken part. Committee chairman Eastland agreed to invite Fortas to re-appear.

ERVIN

Earlier - from a key member of the Committee - another heated attack. Senator Ervin of North Carolina charging that Fortas "has taken precedent after precedent - and cast them into the judicial garbage can." Raising grave questions - said he - whether the Chief Justice - designate chooses to "interpret the Constitution as it is - or as it would have been if he had written it."

Before he was done - Ervin also urging adoption of a new Constitutional Amendment - to cover the filling of Supreme Court vacancies. A plan whereby the President's choice - would be restricted to a panel of five men selected by State and Federal judges. This to "make it as certain as possible" - said Ervin - "that members of the Supreme Court will not be chosen on the basis of personal friendship - political services rendered - or past association with politically potent groups."

CINCINNATI

At Cincinnati - politicking as usual - at the National Governors Conference.

On the Republican side - New York's Governor Rockefeller pinning a loser's label on Richard Nixon. Adding, what's more, that the G.O.P. faces almost certain defeat - if it nominates either Nixon or California's Governor Reagan.

Response from Reagan - a charge that Rockefeller's statement sounds like the boasting of a prize fighter - who has yet to prove himself in the ring. Reagan adding: "Any Republican who is nominated - will win."

On the other side of the fence - Governor Connally of Texas asserting there is "no doubt" - that Hubert Humphrey will win the Democratic nomination. Connally balking though - at the suggestion of a Humphrey-Kennedy "dream ticket." The Texan saying that Humphrey's running mate - "should be someone of more moderate views."

GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

President Johnson flying to Cincinnati tonight - to address the Governors conference at its state dinner. Mr. Johnson going there from Texas - then returning immediately afterward to Washington.

ALGIERS

A tale of high adventure or mis-adventure - enacted today in the skies over the Mediterranean. With a team of five Arab commandos - hijacking an Israeli airliner bound from Rome to Tel Aviv. Forcing the pilot to land in Algeria - which is still technically at war with Israel. There demanding that all aboard - be held as hostages for captured Arab guerillas. Twenty non-Israeli passengers have since been flown to Paris; aboard an Algerian airliner - at Algerian government expense. However, the remaining nineteen passengers - Israeli's - also the crew of ten and the plane itself - still detained in Algiers, at last report.

DA NANG

On the war front -- Major General Robert F. Worley today became the third American general killed in Vietnam. The Vice Commander of the Seventh U.S. Air Force -- at the controls of a photo reconnaissance jet -- unable to eject; when the plane was downed by enemy ground fire -- about sixty-five miles northwest of Saigon.

A former ~~and~~ pursuit pilot -- General Worley ~~was~~ racked up a hundred-and-twenty missions ~~in the Pacific Theater of Operations~~ during World War Two. His decorations in twenty-eight years of total service -- including the Silver Star -- the Legion of Merit -- the Distinguished Flying Cross -- and the Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf clusters. He was only forty-eight.

MOSCOW

Latest from Eastern Europe: The pounding of boots - the clanking of armor today - along the Soviet Union's entire Western frontier. Including hundreds of miles of shared border - with maverick Czechoslovakia.

These massive military maneuvers - called, officially, war games. Among the participants though - a number of newly-activated reservists. With the resulting message - said to be deadly serious. If the Russians decide that Czechoslovakia has gone "anti-Communist" - the Soviet Army may strike again; just as it did in Hungary - ~~back~~^{back} in Nineteen -Fifty-Six. But of course, it may all be just psychological - a war of ~~heroes~~^{heroes}.

In the meantime - we are told that the full Soviet Politburo has already left Moscow. Heading for secret talks with Czech leaders - somewhere in Czechoslovakia. Talks that could well determine the immediate destiny not only of that country - but of all Eastern Europe.

CHICAGO

In Chicago - a green light today for the Democratic
National Convention. With striking electrical workers
agreeing to install vital communications equipment in the
International Amphitheatre. This on a volunteer basis -
without compensation - while the rest of the strike against
Illinois Bill goes on. And so ends the threat of a television
and news blackout - that might have forced transfer of
the Democratic **convention**.

PENTAGON FOLLOW SAIGON

Here at home -- at the Pentagon -- General Westmoreland defends the defense of Khe Sanh. This in remarks today -- to members of the American Legion's Boy's Nation. With the former Vietnamese Commander saying: "I had two choices" -- with regard to Khe Sanh. "I could retreat" -- he went on -- "or I could reenforce; and perhaps destroy two enemy divisions -- while using one per cent of our forces."

Result: The Marines were ordered to hold -- and they did -- said General Westmoreland. Adding that Marine losses in the ensuing eighty-day siege -- numbered two hundred men; as compared with estimates of enemy losses -- ranging from ten thousand to twenty thousand men.

SAIGON FOLLOW DA NANG

On the political front -- in Saigon -- an announcement today that Truong Dinh Dzu will be tried Friday by a South Vietnamese military tribunal. Dzu -- you'll recall -- the "peace candidate" who ran second to President Thieu -- in last year's national elections. A man who has since urged the establishment of a coalition government -- including "non-Communist elements" of the Viet Cong. And now said to be charged with embezzlement -- a crime carrying a possible death penalty.

YELLOWSTONE

Bear trouble again - at Yellowstone National Park.

The U.S. Forest Service - telling of a rampaging grizzly.

The bear biting two girls and a boy - as they lay in their sleeping bags.

Luckily - none hurt seriously. However, this the same bear - that earlier attacked a California man. A bear later transferred to a remote area of the park - only to return to the scene of his crime. Leaving game wardens with no alternative - they had to shoot him.

District Supervisor Phil Hoskins explaining that - "no one likes to go out and just shoot wildlife". But "when you have repeated bitings and molesting of people" - said he - "sooner or later it winds up with campers killed - and we don't want that."

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WASHINGTON

Next up - a long-range cure for big city traffic jams.

As prescribed today - by U.S. Transportation Secretary Alan Boyd. Who urges the speedy development - of "efficient, rapid and safe mass transit." Including electric cars - moving sidewalks - pedestrian commuter belts and so on.

"Notions now on the drawing board" - said he - that could quickly make modern cars as obsolete in big city traffic as the horse and buggy.

In the meantime - said Secretary Boyd - it's up to American cities to do the best they can with the mass transit they already have. The Secretary adding from personal observation - that a little "soap and water" would be a good place to start.

Good night.