

Wednesday, July 16, 1975
Jerry Landay

From Orbit.....

From Washington....

*From London....comes today's news. Good Evening,
everybody. I'm Jerry Landay, CBS News, sitting in for
Lowell Thomas.*

*A new Soviet wheat deal, long rumored in the
making - was announced officially today in Washington. The
Agriculture Department said negotiations have been
completed - "for the sale of Two Million metric tons of hard
winter wheat to the Soviet Union."*

*But this seen by many as only the first step - in a
larger grain deal. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz earlier
said the Russians might well buy - up to Ten Million tons
of American grain this year; and added that such a sale -
would have only "minimal" impact on U.S. food prices.*

The initial deal was negotiated by a private

AGRICULTURE - 2

American company - Cook Industries of Memphis, Tennessee.

At current prices - the wheat would be worth Two-Hundred-Ninty-Four Million dollars.

EARTH ORBIT

In the Apollo-Soyuz joint flight - there were a few problems today, but nothing that couldn't be handled. The U.S. astronauts corrected manually - a malfunction in one of Apollo's docking devices. The Russians repaired broken cables - that had previously knocked out one of their four television cameras. They also trimmed their orbits in both space ships today - bringing them closer to rendezvous.

The Russians are now in a sleep period - with the Americans soon scheduled to follow. If all continues to go well - their historic link-up in space will come shortly after noon tomorrow, Eastern-time.

The first TV picture the Russians sent today was a shot of Alexei Leonov sitting and Valeri Kubasov beside him, upside down. Leonov asked: "Do we look like the Jack of Diamonds?" The Russians in Soyuz also talked with their two fellow cosmonauts - aboard the Soviet Salyut space station. They've been in orbit for fifty-one days. Cosmonaut

EARTH ORBIT - 2

Pyotr Klimuk said at one point: "There are seven people in space right now." And he added: "These are the magnificent seven."

ENERGY

The President and Congress are officially joined in combat again - on energy policy. Mr. Ford has now submitted his plan to Congress to gradually phase out controls on all domestic oil - a plan he concedes will increase the price of a gallon of gasoline seven cents by Nineteen-Seventy-Eight. The Senate and House are acting on measures to continue controls - to hold down gasoline costs. If the President vetoes the measures - and Congress fails to override - controls will expire automatically August Thirty-First - and prices could go up anyway.

BENEFITS

A one-time anti-recession bonus payment to recipients of government benefits raised the personal incomes of American by a record rate last month. According to government figures, the June increase in what Americans can personally spend - or save - was about thirty-point-six billion dollars. Even without the bonus payments, it was the seventh straight month of increases in personal income - more good news for economy.

ADD MILWAUKEE

In Milwaukee Secretary of State Kissinger has expressed concern about Egypt's announced threat - to expel U.N. peacekeeping forces now in the Sinai. The Egyptian move "was most unfortunate" - Kissinger said. He added - that expulsion of the U.N. troops - "would ■ certainly compound an already difficult situation."

RAILROAD

The Secretary of Labor - John T. Dunlop - says there's a good chance there may be no railroad strike - next Monday. He says the railroads have narrowed their differences - with the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks - over a new contract. Monday is also deadline day for a possible strike by postal workers. But sources close to the negotiations say a shutdown of the mails is unlikely.

COMMONS

Britain's Labor government has ordered a pay boost of Twenty-Eight per cent - for Members of Parliament. When it was announced on the floor of Commons - the news drew loud boos and shouts of "disgraceful;" some from M.P.'s who thought was too much - but more from M.P.'s who thought it was far too little.

In any event, the average salary of a British Member of Parliament is now just a little over Thirteen Thousand a year; or less than one-third - of what a U.S. Congressman gets.

I'm Jerry Landay for CBS News.