

July 16, 1971
Dallas Townsend

From the Western White House - San Clemente - a further amplification of President Nixon's surprise announcement of last night. A spokesman saying the President will probably make his unprecedented visit to Red China - sometime early next year; in any event - as soon as possible; in order to divorce the trip - from any possible charge of partisan political activity in an election year.

As to hoped-for results - the spokesman saying: "Obviously, when countries of the magnitude of the United States and the People's Republic of China alter their relationships - it must affect other parts of the world." And then he added: "I don't want to speculate on what impact it will have on any area - but in a quest for peace in the world, peace in Southeast Asia has to be our foremost and immediate objective."

We are also told that the President's National Security Affairs adviser - Henry Kissinger - found Red China's Premier Chou En-Lai "enormously gracious and polite;" and

hopeful that some day soon - he will be able to pay a return visit to the United States.

REACTION FOLLOW SAN CLEMENTE

The President's projected trip has been causing quite a stir right around the globe. Not the least of which was a "strong protest" - from Nationalist China. While in Saigon - South Vietnam's President Thieu was saying: "I hope that this constitutes a first step - toward the elaboration of lasting peace for this part of the world." But the South Vietnamese foreign ministry was saying - if Red China really wants peace, it ought to stop supporting Communist aggression.

EAST BERLIN

East Berlin - another apparent exercise in "peaceful coexistence." The Communist East Germans releasing - six U.S. citizens convicted of relatively petty crimes; six young men previously held in jail - for periods ranging up to Twenty-Two months. These including: Ronald Balch of Huntsville, Alabama - Ronald Mudd of Toledo - Mark Huessz of Jericho, Vermont - Frank King of Detroit - Jack Strickland of Santa Barbara, California - and Lyle Jenkins of Norfolk, Virginia.

Why they were set free - and why just now - hard to say. Observers noting, however - it could have been due to U.S. diplomatic pressures. In any event - a welcome move

WASHINGTON

DRAFT FOLLOW WASHINGTON

Turning to the domestic front - an announcement

that the nation's gross national product rose at an annual rate of eight per cent during the second quarter of Nineteen-Seventy-One. The gross national product - as you know - the sum total of all our goods and services; but it still has a long way to go - to reach the President's forecast of a One Trillion, Sixty-Five Billion GNP for the entire year.

Nevertheless - quite an improvement. In dollar figures - a jump of about Twenty Billion; according to the President's chief economic spokesman - Treasury Secretary John Connally - "one of the largest in U.S. history."

Confirming - said he - "that the economy is on an expansion path." And perhaps equally important - he adds - the fact that the latest figures are "also heartening - with respect to price developments."

DRAFT FOLLOW WASHINGTON

On the reverse side - the results of a nationwide poll - dealing with the effects of that temporary suspension of the draft; which seem to indicate that military recruiters - are generally finding plenty of young men to sign up voluntarily and one of the main reasons - we are told -

is **■ that school is out and they can't find jobs; in part, because**

"some employers" are now refusing to hire the young - till they finish their military obligation. Or as one recruiter put it: "In the Army - they know they can put bread on the table."

Down Texas-way and southward into Mexico - an epidemic of rare equine sleeping sickness continues to run its course; the disease having claimed, at last report - more than six thousand horses and donkeys; and now we are told it could spread clear across the nation - before the onset of winter.

This - according to James Speele of the University of Texas School of Public Health. With a number of ranchers adding that the government is chiefly to blame - for moving too little and too late to control the disease. Indeed, health officials in neighboring Louisiana and Oklahoma - reporting that animals there may have already been afflicted.

LACKLAND FOLLOW HOUSTON

Doctors at Lackland Air Force Base - San Antonio - have reported the death of a six-year-old girl - the daughter of an Air Force enlisted man; possibly a victim of the same kind of sleeping sickness - that is killing all those horses and donkeys. But health officials say - highly unlikely. At the same time, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin - declaring a state of "national emergency;" which thereby gives him the authority - said he - to spend whatever is needed to combat the disease; starting out with a step-up in spraying operations - in an effort to control the mosquitos which transmit it.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "NEW GUINEA"

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;

discussing tonight some of the latest developments - in his -

and my - old stomping ground - the Island of New Guinea.

Lowell...

Bishop Leo Arkfeld - Wewak

Recently we had a story from New Guinea, about the cargo cult and a human sacrifice, far up the mighty Sepik River, in a region where some of the tribes still practice cannibalism. It all came about over a U.S. Army survey marker which the natives believe is a spirit that "prevents the growing of crops and the breeding of fish. The cargo cult tribesmen believe the white man, during World War II brought battleships, airplanes and all his vast paraphernalia to that part of the world by magic. Some of their leaders now tell them they can do the same thing.

Years ago when we were on an expedition out there we ran short of food. The then youngest Catholic bishop in the world, Leo Arkfeld, from Iowa by the way, flew out in his own small plane, located us by his shortwave radio, and dropped supplies to us. I've just heard from the Bishop who tells me the Australian government would like to prevent

human sacrifice among the tribesmen, but that they still have little or no control over some of the tribes in the remote mountains.

Meanwhile many of the smaller nations at the U N insist these tribal people should be encouraged to form a separate independent nation; make the jump from the Stone Age of ten thousand years ago to the present jet-space era - do it overnight.

HARRIS

From Senator Harris of Oklahoma, as expected - an announcement today that he will not stand for re-election to the Senate next year. But that done - he refused to drop the other shoe; failing to announce - as also expected - that he plans to run for the Democratic Presidential nomination next year. Instead, Harris stating that he will look seriously into the possibility of seeking" the nomination. Adding: "If I find that I can become a serious candidate - one whose words will be heard - I will run."

LONDON

U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell - the main speaker today at the American Bar Association convention in London. There charging that excessive procedures such as multiple pre-trial and post-trial motions - followed by appeal after appeal - are "dragging justice to death in the United States." End result - says Mitchell: "We face a situation # in the U.S. where the discovery of guilt or innocence - as a function of the courts - is in danger of drowning in a sea of legalisms."

And now this is Dallas Townsend saying good night.