

Good evening everybody. Hurricane Gerda is posing a threat to New England and perhaps New York. The season's newest hurricane - with top winds of more than eighty miles an hour - now off Cape Hatteras North Carolina - heading for Cape Cod. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says Gerda could reach Cape Cod by tomorrow evening. Dr. Robert Simpson, director of the hurricane center, warns that it could become a very serious hazard to the northeastern coast, from Narragansett Bay eastward. A hurricane watch has been ordered from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod - and that includes the New York metropolitan area. The storm is expected to intensify in the next twelve to twenty-four hours - as it moves north-north-east with rapidly increasing speed.

VIETNAM

An unofficial truce has taken effect in Viet Nam. U.S.

and South Vietnamese commanders - scaling down their

operations. This in response to the Communist ceasefire

- making the death of North Vietnam's President Ho Chi Minh;

a Russian delegation led by Soviet Premier Kosygin - and a

ceasefire scheduled to last - as things now stand - just three

days.

Here at home though - hope springs eternal. Secretary

of State William Rogers asserting: "We do not see progress

for peace in Vietnam." This following Vice President Spiro

Agnew's statement - over the weekend - that something more

may be brewing; meaning - apparently - something in the way

of a permanent ceasefire.

HANOI FOLLOW VIETNAM

The body of Ho Chi Minh - lying in a glass coffin today in Hanoi. With tens of thousands - filing past the funeral bier. The mourners including - at different times - a Russian delegation led by Soviet Premier Kosygin - and a newly-arrived Red Chinese delegation headed by a second-stringer. Red China's Premier Chou En-Lai - having already paid his respects and returned home, - so he wouldn't have to meet Kosygin.

CAPITOL HILL

For Senator Everett Dirksen - a rare and signal tribute. Officials announcing that the late Minority Leader - will become only the third Senator in U.S. history - to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. President Nixon and other government leaders - there to take part in a memorial service tomorrow. The President and Vice President - also planning to attend burial services Thursday ~~at~~ in Illinois.

One of the most moving tributes to the memory of Senator Dirksen - that of Senator Margaret Chase Smith; who placed on his desk today - a single, yellow marigold. For years, Senator Dirksen urged adoption of the marigold - as our national flower; during the same period - Mrs. Smith was lobbying for the red rose. Today - the lady Senator from Maine merely observing: "He loved his marigolds."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "SEQUOIA")

Lowell Thomas is en route to the Pacific tonight -
there to keep a rendezvous with the head-hunters of New
Guinea. In the meantime - a special report he left us -
on another of nature's seeming miracles. Lowell.....

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SEQUOIA

Hello Everybody: I have found the secret of eternal life out here on the West Coast. Well, almost!

After years of study - scientists report that while the giant sequoia has sometimes fallen to the woodsman's ax; and, sometimes has fallen to soil erosion - no one has ever known of a sequoia succumbing to pests - or to old age - or even to fire. For example, a recent forest fire out here in California blazed through a part of the Sequoia National Park - and it caused little damage to those great trees.

Main reason - the sequoia's tough bark - it's about two feet thick - and it's as tough as asbestos. In laboratory tests it has even withstood an hour's flame from a propane torch and can you think of anything hotter than a propane torch? One tree - completely hollowed out by flames - is still growing.

over

SEQUOIA - 2

The chemical "annin" - is found in the bark and in the heart of the tree, and it resists insects, and blight - and even rot. Sequoia logs have lain in the forest for centuries and are still sound and sturdy.

The poet John Masefield wrote: "They are not like trees" - "they are like spirits; rising up with dignity, power and majesty - rising as though they had been there forever."

Solong....

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE)

BTINUT

Continuing strife in the Middle East - reflected in
Thank you, Lowell. Now - back to the news....

bomb explosions today at Brussels, Bonn, the Hague. Arab
terrorists blasting Israeli installations - in each of those
cities. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
- later claiming from Beirut that it was responsible for all
three attacks. The same group - held responsible for the
U.S. airliner hijacking last week.

BEIRUT

Continuing strife in the Middle East - reflected in bomb explosions today at Brussels, Bonn, the Hague . Arab terrorists blasting Israeli installations - in each of those cities. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - later claiming from Beirut that it was responsible for all three attacks. The same group - held responsible for that U.S. airliner hijacking last week.

Later - President Nixon flying en route to the South, observing the devastation caused by Hurricane Camille - en route back to the White House.

AMISTAD

Near Del Rio, Texas - President Nixon joined President Diaz of Mexico today - in dedicating the new Amistad Dam across the Rio Grande. President Nixon noting that the word "amistad" - means friendship. Adding that the dam symbolizes what two countries can achieve - when they work together. President Diaz, in turn, calling the dam - "one more part of the road we travel together."

Later - President Nixon flying on across the South; observing the devastation caused by Hurricane Camille - en route back to the White House.

BONN

French President Georges Pompidou - a visitor today at Bonn. Meeting with West German Chancellor Kissinger - on his first visit abroad as French chief of State . Ensuing talks - expected to deal with a broad range of economic and political issues; including - number one - Britain's still-pending bid for admission to the Common Market.

TENNIS

Rod Laver this afternoon won the men's finals in the U.S. Tennis Championships - Laver defeating fellow Australian Tony Roche - and completing his second grand slam of the world's four top tennis titles.

More news after this message.

Spicer Brown? Good Night.

CASERTA

No one can say the Italians don't take the game of soccer seriously, at least when somebody else is playing. The soccer team that represents Caserta was accused of corruption, and was demoted to a lower division because of it. The result - thousands of rioting soccer fans went on a rampage late today through the heart of Caserta - smashing windows, uprooting trees, blocking roads with overturned trucks and busses. Then they broke through police lines and set fire to the railroad station, hurling firebombs into offices and throwing rail traffic into chaos. Riot police rushed in from neighboring towns were unable to halt the uproar. From the steps of the rock-battered town hall, the Mayor of Caserta appealed in vain for an end to the rioting. Many people injured - all because of that insult to the local team.

Soccer anyone? Good Night.