

February 18, 1972
Allan Jackson

HAWAII

Good evening. At the Travelling White House in Hawaii - President Nixon was up early this morning - getting in some final homework for the forth coming talks in China.

At the same time - he let it be known - through News Secretary Ron Ziegler - that he wants to establish what he calls - an ongoing communications belt - between Washington and Peking - perhaps something like the "hot line" between Washington and Moscow - although Ziegler wouldn't speculate on just what form the Peking link might take.

Late tomorrow - the second leg of the journey - a seven hour and forty minute flight to Guam - then on Sunday night - our time - on into China.

PEKING

A broadcast today from Peking - perhaps underscoring the job that lies ahead. Red China charged that President Nixon's recent foreign policy report - "signifies that U. S. imperialism has no wish to change its hostile position toward China." He added, however: "The Chinese government and people - have always been friendly toward the American people."

DEATH PENALTY

The Supreme Court of California today handed down a significant ruling - holding that the state's death penalty is unconstitutional - because the court said - it violates the constitutional amendment forbidding "cruel and unusual punishment."

Other suits - involving the same argument - are pending before the U.S. Supreme Court - which, of course, will have the last word in the matter. But for the moment - the California decision is welcome news - certainly to the more than one hundred persons confined on that state's death row - the largest in the Nation. They include - such unnotables as - Sirhan Sirhan - killer of Senator Robert Kennedy - and Charles Manson convicted for his part as creator of a bizarre death-dealing "cult."

ALCOHOL

From the Department of Health, Education and Welfare - a report today labeling alcohol the nation's "major drug problem." The basis for this - we are told - a nationwide statistical study; showing that an estimated nine million Americans - or roughly ten per cent of the nation's work force - are currently suffering from alcoholism or related drinking problems.

The same report also tells of plans for a nationwide campaign - with the backing of the liquor industry - aimed at curbing excessive drinking. Dr. Morris Chafetz saying: "We are not telling people to drink or not to drink - that is a personal, private decision. What we are saying is that if one chooses to drink - he has a responsibility not to destroy himself or society. This - in its broadest sense - is responsible drinking."

ST. PAUL

An explosion today in the Minnesota State Office Building at St. Paul. The blast causing extensive damage - though luckily no one hurt. Police later seizing two suspects

PENTAGON

The Pentagon - an announcement today the U.S. will test flight this year - a new ballistic missile warhead; one that's possibly capable of avoiding - hostile anti-ballistic missiles. This - we are told - in response to Soviet development of new surface-to-air missiles. The Pentagon warning that these could effect - "a sizable increase in Russia's ABM capability."

LONDON

For a few hours today - it appeared that Britain's crippling coal strike might be settled. A government-named court of inquiry - disregarding the government's own anti-inflationary wage guideline; recommended instead an average twenty per cent wage increase - as compared with a previous ceiling of only eight per cent. And, the British National Coal Board - as promised, quickly accepted the court's recommendation.

After long discussion though - the mineworkers' leaders turned thumbs down. Adding they not only want more money - but also greater fringe benefits and longer vacations. And thus, another impasse - with Britain now facing its worst industrial crisis in half-a-century.

BLACKPOOL

*Britain again - a resident eye doctor at
Blackpool's Victoria Hospital - the son of a Jordanian
sheikh - was charged with murder today. Dr. Ahmad Alami
- age thirty-two - accused of stabbing to death three infants
- who were confined to the hospital's children ward.
Another child and two nurses - also, critically wounded.
But the why of it all - still a mystery.*

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ATLAS"

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

Subject tonight: The U.S.A. - from stem to stern. Lowell..

A new book just out - the U. S. Geological Survey's National Atlas of the United States; a book that could easily bear the sub-title - "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the U. S. and Then Some."

For example, the Atlas including among its myriad entries - the fact that Yuma, Arizona, receives annually more than four thousand hours of sunshine; as compared with three thousand hours in Miami Beach - and only two thousand in New York and Washington. It also notes that men outnumber women - in Alaska, Wyoming, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Upper Maine and Hawaii; where the reverse is true - in major cities such as New York, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis.

Another entry - perhaps surprising - the fact that states west of the Mississippi - have a generally higher education level; also - more crime. You can also find here that no U. S. state is entirely free of snow; Idaho produces

and consumes more electricity per capita - than New York, Pennsylvania or California. Only one state has never recorded an earthquake - North Dakota.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ATLAS"

Thank you, Lowell.

A final note - in a moment.

STOCKTON

From Stockton, California - the sad story of Roy Rawlins - age a hundred and one; just a few months ago - he took as his fifth bride - young, pretty Margie Celestine; and then - the clouds opened up.

Shortly after the wedding - a serious traffic accident. The new bridegroom - was confined to a hospital for weeks. When he got out - discovered his new wife had run off with their furniture, a freezer and a pet cat.

All this came to light - as Rawlins asked - and was granted - an annulment. Sadder but wiser at a hundred and one - Roy Rawlins saying: "I'm through with love."

Now for Lowell Thomas - so long until Monday.