

L.T. COMMERCIAL MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1966
(Dallas Townsend Sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Manila Summit Conference on Vietnam -- less than Twenty-four hours old; and already the scene of the worst anti-American rioting -- of President Johnson's Far Eastern Tour.

A mob of anti-war students -- clashing with police tonight in front of the Manila Hotel; where the President -- and other delegates -- are staying. At least Seven shots fired in all -- as Filipino Army troops finally joined with police to put down the demonstration.

Earlier -- at the first conference meeting -- President Johnson apparently trying his best -- to avoid any suggestion that he is dominating the summit. Waiting until last to speak -- the President declaring he had come to Manila -- as "an equal among equals; to share with friends and allies -- our problems, our plans and our hopes.

VIETNAM FOLLOW MANILA

Coinciding with start of the Manila conference -- a new surge of Communist terrorist activity in Vietnam. Viet Cong assassins killing Two local officials -- in a village in the Mekong Delta. While a Viet Cong mine was exploding under a bus -- on a rural road near Whay. The blast killing fifteen Vietnamese civilians -- wounding Twenty others.

By contrast -- comparative quiet on the fighting front. Communist forces confining their activity -- to a pair of hit-and-run mortar attacks against American outposts; one of Da Nang -- the other just south of the De-militarized zone.

ABERFAN

An explanation today -- for that coal-mining tragedy on Friday at Aberfan, Wales. The collapse of the giant slag-heap -- that claimed the lives of almost two hundred persons; most of them -- small children.

Government investigators blaming the sudden avalanche of black mud -- on an underground spring; that apparently bubbled up deep within the mountain of refuse -- left by a century of mining.

Distraught parents refusing, however, to accept the explanation.. Blaming the tragedy on alleged negligence -- by the National Coal Board. One father -- pale and drawn -- rising at today's inquest -- and demanding a change in his sons' death certificate. He said it should read: "Buried alive -- by the National Coal Board."

LONDON

Lord Mountbatten of Burma -- one of Britain's top military heroes in World War Two -- was named today to head a special government team; assigned to investigate the weekend prison escape -- of master spy George Blake.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins -- announcing the appointment to a packed Parliament; in the face of reports that Blake's escape -- may have been engineered by a super-secret Russian spy ring; supposedly operating under the very noses -- of British security men.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

With Lowell Thomas still on the trail of high adventure -- another special report tonight; on a recent conversation -- with another world traveler.

Bet. Jerus. And Beth.

Hi there Dallas, and good evening everybody:

Wherever my travels take me, even to the Antarctic, I inevitably cross the trail of another traveller who seems to be in perpetual motion - Father Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame University. This distinguished widely travelled gentleman is not only an educator, he also is a scientist, and a historian, who devotes much of his time to world problems.

Father Hesburgh has been telling me about what could be another of the most important projects of our time. He says that all, or nearly all of the major Christian denominations, Catholic, Orthodox-Catholic, Protestant, Anglican and so on are joining forces to create an ecumenical institute for theological studies - in The Holy Land. The number one objective will be the compiling of a history of Christianity from the earliest times, a

monumental under taking that will take many years of research, discussion and writing.

The plan is to establish this all-faith Christian research center out here where I am at the moment, midway between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

And I wonder - I wonder if this could be the fore-runner of some far distant day when the headquarters of the U N might be moved to Jerusalem or to Bethlehem, to "The City of Peace?"

Solong,

CLEVELAND

Samuel Sheppard -- back on trial for a second time today in Cleveland. On charges that he murdered his first wife, Marilyn -- a dozen years ago.

Opening session -- devoted to the selection of a tentative jury. Tears welling in Sheppard's eyes -- at one point; when the judge warned prospective jurors -- that he was innocent until proven guilty. Defense counsel later suggesting that Sheppard -- may not take the stand in his own defense; as he did -- in his first trial. Why not? -- no explanation.

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed today -- to review the conviction of Seventeen American anti-Vietnam war demonstrators. A group that attempted to hold a rally two summers ago -- in New York's Times Square; only to have it broken up by mounted police -- when they refused to disperse.

The students -- mostly members of an Ivy League anti-war movement. Appealing their subsequent conviction -- on the ground they were denied the right to peaceful expression of political dissent.

In another case -- the High Court agreed today to hear an appeal -- from hundreds of Japanese-Americans; whose life savings were confiscated by the government during World War Two -- and still have not been returned.

BAL HARBOUR

In the midst of spreading supermarket boycotts across the country -- to protest rising food prices -- a ray of hope today from Bal Harbour, Florida. Assistant Secretary of Commerce William Shaw telling American housewives -- there is "some ground for optimism" -- that food prices will go down in the next few months.

"We cannot pretend that inflation has been licked" -- said Shaw; but there are certain signs -- that augur well for the future. For example -- said he -- pork prices "undoubtedly will drop" during the remainder of the year. Crop prospects for grains "have improved" -- he went on. Adding that supplies of eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables -- "seem to be catching up" with the demand.

However, Shaw stopping just short -- of predicting a widescale rollback in food prices next year. To do that -- said he -- "I'd have to know in advance the amount of rain that will fall in Kansas -- as well as the outlook for cocoa in Ghana."
Not even Warren Moran knows that.

CLOSE

A birthday party today at the home of the United Nations. Complete with music -- good fellowship -- and suitable speechmaking. As the world body celebrated -- its Twenty-First birthday.

The festive occasion tempered, however -- by a note of somber warning from U.N. Secretary General U Thant. A warning that the organization must face up to is "flaws, gaps and weaknesses" -- if it is ever truly to come of age.

As to the music -- it may have struck some listeners as just a bit inappropriate. Final number on the program - Berlioz' Fantastic Symphony. The last sections of which are entitled "March to the Scaffold" and "Witches Sabbath,". A somewhat ominous accompaniment for the UN's twenty-first birthday.

Good night.