

Thurs. Feb. 20, 1969  
(Dallas Townsend)

Good evening everybody.

President Nixon proposed a reform of the electoral system. With the 1968 campaign still fresh in mind, Mr. Nixon is asking Congress to make electoral vote more closely reflect the popular vote, and permit election of a President by as little as forty percent of the electoral vote - instead of a majority, as required now. In case no candidate receives forty percent, there would be a run-off election between the two leading candidates...and whoever wins the runoff would become President.

Mr. Nixon says he is not wedded to this plan or any other specific plan - in effect, he leaves the details up to Congress, but he says the events of 1968 - when the candidacy of George Wallace prevented either Mr. Nixon or Hubert Humphrey from winning a majority of the popular vote - constitute the clearest proof that the priority must be accorded to electoral college reform.

Another late-afternoon development at the White House - the president has re-assumed responsibility for government oil import policies. In the Johnson Administration they were delegated to the Interior Department. Now the President - in a memo to Interior Secretary Walter Hickel - takes these responsibilities back again and orders a full review of the entire subject. He says a wide range of complex and highly important issues - affecting the nation's oil import policies - must be dealt with in the near future.

WASHINGTON

From the Pentagon by way of Capitol Hill - word today that Russia is now testing - a new, improved anti-ballistic missile system. This according to Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. With the new equipment further said to include - better radar devices than the Soviets have ever had before.

The Secretary's remarks - by way of explaining a U.S. decision last year - to begin construction of our own anti-ballistic missile system. Melvin Laird going on to assure the committee - that a current review of that decision will be an objective one. But he made it obvious - he does not intend for the U.S. to stand idly by; while the Soviets and Red Chinese - continue to progress in the development of strategic weapons.

Secretary Laird asserting: "I personally lean toward going ahead with such a system." Adding that the only

question in his own mind - as of now: Just what kind of  
system - it should be.



## WEST BERLIN

Defiance at West Berlin. The U.S. Air Force - today ignoring a Communist protest. Flying in West German President Heinrich Luebke - demonstrating once again the Western right of free access to that divided city. Luebke later joining in a memorial service - to German atomic scientist Otto Hahn.

This, of course, a plus for our side - in preliminary skirmishing on that planned Berlin meeting of the West German Parliament. Although the East Germans themselves - were also stirring things up today. And Moscow announces that the East German and Soviet troops will hold joint, large-scale maneuvers next month ...along the border with West Germany.

## SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS

In today's major combat action - American Marines and North Vietnamese regulars - battling from ridge-to-ridge high above the A Shau Valley.

On one peak - some forty enemy troops delaying their flight - attempting to save two big artillery pieces; when American guns - zeroed in on their position. A U S. officer later observing: "They stayed - and they died."

NEW YORK

Here in New York - the big news today is the largest mass transplant in medical history; with a single donor - a fifty-seven-year-old man - attempting to benefit six others. Doctors passing on his heart - his liver - his kidneys - with later plans to transplant his corneas as well. Giving four people the chance to live - and two the chance to see.

Names of the principals involved - as yet undisclosed. At last report though - all the recipients were doing well. Today's feat also marking the first time a heart was removed in one hospital - and transplanted in another. The two institutions - a block apart.

WHITE HOUSE

President Nixon makes it official. Today naming three new Ambassadors - to top diplomatic posts abroad. As predicted earlier - the trio including: Career diplomat Jacob Beam - who becomes our new man in Moscow; Philadelphia publisher Walter Annenberg - who goes to London; and John Eisenhower - son of Dwight, father of David - now our new Ambassador to Belgium.



## LONDON

Another bastion of male supremacy - succumbs at last to the feminine mystique. After three hundred years as an all-male establishment - Lloyds of London today announcing plans to accept women members - as of next January.

Not only that - the lady underwriters' membership rights - to include access to Lloyd's legendary Captain's Room; a plush Victorian restaurant heretofore so exclusive - that it has never admitted women - not even as guests.

All of which has shocked - London's sober financial world. As one observer was heard to remark: "Mini-skirts at Lloyds? Incredible!"

## WIESBADEN

The discovery of a new "sober-up" pill - reported today from Wiesbaden, Germany. Dr. Wolfram Kuuehnau - the man with the potion. A substance - that supposedly speeds up liver action. Dr. Kuuehnau predicting ~~that~~ once perfected and tested - the "sober-up" pill will sober up a drunk in a matter of about half-an-hour; sober him up enough - so that he can even drive a car.

How did he come to develop such a pill? Dr. Kuuehnau explaining that: "People who drive - are deprived of fun at parties." And he adds: "It just isn't fair - that anyone who drinks is always blamed in a traffic accident."

That's Dr. Kuuehnau's opinion - the police have a different one.

Dallas Townsend saying Goodnight.

PARIS

Paris fifth session of expanded Vietnam talks. U.S.

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge - urging a return to the Geneva Agreements of Nineteen-Fifty-Four. Those that

ended - the previous French-Indochina War. However, North Vietnam's ~~Xuan Thuy~~ <sup>XUAN THUY</sup> - quickly rejecting the idea.

Asserting the war will go on - until there is a complete and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops.

In later talks with newsmen - both sides reflecting a hardening of attitudes. Lodge declaring that in his opinion - any settlement would have to be based on the Geneva Agreements. But he added: "Everything I said in there - was misrepresented and then rejected." Xuan Thuy - for his part - charging the U.S. with "neo-colonialism" in Vietnam. "There is one Vietnamese people and one Vietnam" - said he. Adding: "To claim that North Vietnam is attacking South Vietnam - amounts to saying that the inhabitants of Washington attack those of New York."