

L.T.-OLDS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1962.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At his news conference today, the President talked about - space of course and John Glenn.

What was his reaction to Khrushchev's proposal for cooperation in space? Mr. Kennedy pointed out that he made that suggestion last year. But he still thinks this Khrushchev invitation - is encouraging, if the Soviet boss means what he says.

If he intends to let American observers - cover Soviet space shots.

The name of another American flier - came up. President Kennedy revealing - that Francis Gary Powers will be available next week. Free to tell news men what happened to him - during and after his ill-fated U-2 flight.

REACTION

Congratulations are still pouring into Washington

- from around the world. Signed by most of the heads of governments - MacMillan, DeGaulle, Nehru, Khrushchev, Pope John and the rest.

The only sour note - from behind the Iron Curtain - and Castro.

ASTRONAUT

Out on Grand Turk Island ~~xx~~ in the Bahamas, an interesting experiment - today. Picture a couple of wooden rails - running the length of a laboratory. The rails, two inches apart at one end - only three quarters of an inch at the opposite end. A forty year old Marine Colonel, told to walk down the rails - and then balance himself with one foot in front of the other.

~~Sounds like a psychological experiment and it is. Our space scientists trying to determine~~ whether orbiting the ~~xx~~ earth affected John Glenn's balance. Result - negative. The astronaut passing the test. Proving that he was right when he said - he came back from outer space in excellent condition. No ill effects, ~~xxx~~ despite the tremendous physical changes he went through from blast-off to descent. Including - ²~~that~~ period of weightlessness.

Glenn's capsule also came back - looking okay. Except for the scorching of the metal caused by three thousand degrees of temperature - while the

capsule was dropping through the atmosphere into the Atlantic.

But something went wrong with the controls - that forced Glenn to take over from the automatic pilot. Why? That's a leading question at Cape Canaveral where the experts are now going over Friendship Seven, prior to shipping it to the Smithsonian, in Washington.

Astronaut Glenn covering the same distance in eighty-nine minutes.

Flying here some 100,000 miles since the dawn of aviation, relative to the first flight of the world's first airplane, the Wright brothers' Flyer, in 1903.

Will Glenn's Mercury rocket ride be as safe as the old fashioned plane that made the first world flight?

In the eventuality of the project's success, some startling prophecies are being made. For instance,

FLIGHT

An old friend and colleague of mine, General Leigh Wade, has an interesting comment on the orbital flight of Astronaut Glenn. Back in 1924 the sensation was the First World Flight, in which he was one of the pilots. And I was its historian. General Leigh Wade's point - the difference in speed and time. In those single engine planes, thirty-eight years ago the ^{first} flight around the world took almost six months. Astronaut Glenn covering the same distance in eighty-nine minutes.

(Flying has come a long way - since the ~~xxxx~~ neandertal period of aviation, since the days when the first flight around the world ~~xx~~ was as much of a sensation as John Glenn's rocket ride in orbit.)

Will Glenn's Mercury rocket some ~~xxx~~ day become as old fashioned as the plane that made the first world flight?

In the exhuberance of the present moment, some startling prophecies are being made. For instance,

one distinguished columnist said today that ^{the} John Glenn's flight opens the pathway to the galaxies. I wonder? The nearest galaxies to our earth is out in space at a distance of four light years. ~~That~~ ~~is~~, if we could travel at the speed of one hundred and eighty-six thousand miles ~~in~~ a second it would take four years! ^{to get there} A journey of ~~many~~ billions of miles.

When I was on a South Pacific expedition ~~and~~ with some of our top astronomers a couple of years ago they talked much about ^{space} the cosmos, the universe, and the billions of ~~many~~ planets that are in space -- so many ^{planets} ~~of them~~ that they figure there must be thousands of other planets where conditions are ~~many~~ identical ^{to what we have} ~~with conditions~~ here on ~~us~~ earth, and therefore must be inhabited -- but are ^{too} ~~so~~ far away for man ever to visit in a space ship.

I wonder? When I was writing the story of the First World Flight thirty-eight years ago - in our wildest imaginations ^{then we} ~~we~~ couldn't have ^{dreamed of a} ~~visualized~~

John Glenn flying around the earth at nearly ~~xxx~~
as eighteen thousand miles an hour. So I wonder
if some day a magic way will be found for man to fly
at say a million miles a second, so ^{he}~~we~~ can visit other
galaxies?

ETHEL KENNEDY

The wife of the ATTorney General - still running into odd experiences abroad. Ethel Kennedy had two in Tokyo. First, when she stood too close to an enthusiastic cheer leader - and got jostled during his pin-wheel gyrations. Also, when she tried her hand at ju-jitsu. Result - a slightly twisted wrist.

When in Rome do as the Romans do. Today in Rome, Ethel did. Buzzing around the streets - on a motor scooter - as so many Romans do. But she made a U-turn at a wrong intersection, - as so many Romans do. Whereupon she collided full tilt - with a passing car - also as the Romans do.

Robert Kennedy rushed forward - to pick his wife up. But she laughed and said she wasn't hurt. Ethel Kennedy just a trifle embarrassed.

BANGKOK

That fire in Bangkok is called - "the worst in the history of the city". The age-old metropolis of Thailand - devastated by a blaze that raged for five hours. Whipped into an inferno - by winds blowing in off the Gulf of Siam. The flames, raging through the wooden buildings of downtown Bangkok turning ~~22~~ ² ~~twenty~~ thousand of them into heaps of smouldering ashes. Five thousand homeless, scores dead and missing. Hundreds injured. Damage - running into the millions. ^{glorious} Bangkok a scene of desolation.

WEATHER

A blizzard in the mid-west tonight - on its way East, headed for New England.

Ten inches of snow - from Nebraska to Indiana, with another ten expected - all heading East, Dick.

GLENN

Today John Glenn was given - a court room sentence. Convicted of - speeding. Fined - eight dollars and forty cents. I mean - three pounds sterling. This particular John Glenn - no astronaut. A clerk in Penzance, England. He says he got so excited by the space flight of his American namesake - that he just stepped on the gas. Those speedy John Glenns!