

L.T. SUSTAINING, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: President Johnson's double-barreled surgery -- a complete success -- as you doubtless have heard by now. The President already back functioning as chief of state -- that is from his bed at Bethesda Naval Hospital, where the doctors are predicting that he'll be able to return home -- within a few days. The President's personal physician rating LBJ's overall health -- "as excellent as I have seen in recent years" -- said he.

The President, nevertheless, virtually speechless -- from that throat operation. And under strict orders -- not to do any public speaking for the next five weeks. A fact duly noted -- by Mrs. Johnson.

This the first time -- said Lady Bird -- that she has ever known her husband to be speechless. "And" she added, "we're going to make the most of it."

VIETNAM

The Communist Viet Cong were attacking the U.S. Marines -- today under cover of the monsoon rains, in the heaviest fighting in more than six weeks -- along that so-called "demilitarized zone" between north and south. To the west -- another flare-up in War Zone C -- near the Cambodian border. To the South -- near Saigon -- Viet Cong guerillas were launching a sneak mortar attack -- on command headquarters of the U.S. Army's crack Eleventh Armored Cavalry Regiment.

And everywhere -- it seems -- a stepped-up nationwide campaign of Viet Cong hit-and-run attacks, directed mainly against isolated government outposts -- or helpless civilians. This -- according to U.S. military spokesmen -- a terrorist campaign obviously born of frustration on the battlefield.

RIO DE JANEIRO

A terrible train crash today in Brazil -- ~~about halfway~~ ^{not far}
~~between~~ ^{from} Rio De Janeiro, and the nearby town of Nova Aganca. A
Q commuter train bound for Rio -- crowded with about ~~Twenty-Five~~
~~Hundred~~ passengers; when it crashed head-on with a second
commuter train -- outward bound.


The result -- a tangled mass of wreckage, ~~With~~ an
estimated ~~Forty persons~~ killed outright; another ~~Three~~
~~Hundred~~ -- injured; and of these -- about ~~Twenty~~ so badly hurt
they were not expected to live.

At that -- it could have been worse, ~~Except~~ for the fact
that the second train -- was nearly empty.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations -- Jordan today demanded strong retaliatory action against Israel -- for that Israeli raid last Sunday on a Jordanian village. Such retaliation possibly to include diplomatic and commercial isolation -- economic sanctions -- and perhaps even military action.

Jordanian Ambassador Muhammed El-Farra also lashing out at the United States -- for attempting "to find justifications for the Israeli attack, ^{-- as he put it.}" El-Farra further charging that "the United States has treated the question of Palestine -- from the very beginning until the present time -- as a domestic issue." This -- said he -- solely for reasons of "political expediency."



ADD UNITED NATIONS

It was soft and faraway today -- at Cape Kennedy, astronauts Jim Lovell and Buzz Aldrin of the Gemini Twelve -- returning by plane from the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, for a casual evening rendezvous -- with the room-to-room-distributed Gemini launch for one -- that "this grave incident must not be repeated."

Spaceman Aldrin, telling the crowd -- "It was fantastic." "I feel humble and at the same time proud" -- he went on -- "to have been part of this last flight of the Gemini." Space insurance king Lovell adding -- "It takes a lot of people to make these successes continuous."

Next on the agenda -- two days of post-flighting. After which the spacemen will return to Houston -- for still more debriefing -- and a special reception will be held.

CAPE KENNEDY

It was "hail and farewell" today -- at Cape Kennedy.

Astronauts Jim Lovell and Buzz Aldrin of the Gemini-Twelve --

returning by plane from the aircraft carrier Wasp; for a ~~final~~ ^{final,}

rousing rendezvous -- with the soon-to-be-disbanded Gemini launch

team at Cape Kennedy.

Spacewalk Champ Aldrin telling the crowd -- "it was fantastic." "I feel humble and at the same time proud" -- he went on -- "to have been part of this last flight of the Gemini."

Space endurance king Lovell adding -- "It takes a lot of people to make these successes continuous."

~~Next on the agenda -- Two days of self-debriefing. After which the spacemen will return to Houston -- for still more debriefing -- and a joyful reunion with their families.~~

MOSCOW FOLLOW CAPE KENNEDY

Speaking of space -- a related item comes today from Moscow. An explanation for Russia's comparative quiet on the space front -- for the past ~~Twenty~~ months.

According to Western observers -- the Russians are evidently planning future "team" flights into space -- the same as American spacemen. However, the Russian plans are said to be far more grandiose -- than those embodied in America's upcoming three-man Apollo series.

The Russians -- we ^Rre told -- ^{will} ~~attempting~~ to perfect a so-called "space Bus," A mammoth space vehicle specially designed to carry up to ~~Eight~~ men -- on missions lasting a month or more.

A spacecraft that could serve, ~~what's more~~ -- as the nucleus of a ~~manned~~ ^{manned} orbital laboratory; ^{and} at the same time, capable of carrying enough fuel -- to land on the moon and take off again.

If they can bring it off ^{it sure would be} a tremendous achievement, ~~to~~

~~be sure~~

ROME

Twelve days after the worst flood in their nation's history -- Italians today were handed another bitter pill. The government at Rome ordering a ten per cent tax increase -- to remain in effect for at least a year. An attempt to raise an initial eight hundred thousand dollars -- to finance a massive recovery program.

BONN

A major political compromise -- in the making today at Bonn. One that could well block former Nazi Kurt George Kiesinger -- from becoming chancellor of West Germany.

Leaders of the Free Democrats -- who have heretofore supported Kiesinger's ruling Christian Democrats -- agreeing to meet with leaders of the opposition Social Democratic Party. Purpose -- to discuss the possible formation -- of a new coalition government.

Showdown talks -- set for next Tuesday, ~~Amid~~ predictions that a socialist will soon be at the nation's helm -- for the first time since the West German Republic was founded in Nineteen-Forty-Nine.

SOFIA

Bulgaria's call for a world Communist summit meeting -- for the purpose of shastising Red China, ^{was} ~~λ~~ all but laid to rest today at Sofia. The reason -- an obvious lack of support for the proposal -- from Communist Party leaders present.

The delegate from Romania -- ~~λ~~ only one so far to reject flatly the idea of such a meeting; ~~λ~~ However, the Italian Communist Party -- largest in the free world -- ^{is} ~~λ~~ backing conditions that would delay the meeting ~~λ~~ indefinitely. While Poland, Yugoslavia, North Korea, Cuba and all-important North Viet Nam -- are all pointedly ignoring the issue.

Under the circumstances -- say Kremlinologists -- any conference to "isolate" Red China would be doomed from the start. Even worse -- they say -- it might enable Red China to boast that Peking -- had, in fact, isolated Moscow.

NEW YORK

General Motors ~~Corporation~~ -- the nation's leading automaker -- target of a mammoth damage suit filed today in New York. Ralph Nader -- author of "Unsafe at Any Speed" -- asking an award of Twenty-Six Million dollars; on the grounds he was harrassed and intimidated by Two private detective agencies -- allegedly hired by GM.

HARTFORD

From Hartford, Connecticut -- the amazing story today of John Dangas; a virtual recluse in life -- now suddenly a philanthropist in death.

For years -- Dangas worked as a waiter in the old Bond Hotel in Hartford. Living alone in a furnished room -- where he often cooked his own meals on a hot plate. To all appearances -- just getting by -- until his death last summer at the age of Seventy-Nine.

But what no one knew -- was that John Dangas had received a tip from a wealthy customer many years ago. A tip that he should invest whatever he could in the stock market -- if only a few pennies at a time. Advice he followed to the letter -- as demonstrated this week when his will was filed for probate.

John Dangas' total estate -- valued at Three Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand bucks. And except for a few minor bequests -- the great bulk left to charity. Biggest beneficiary -- the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving -- which gets Three Hundred Thousand.

SANTIAGO

In the midst of continuing controversy about "the pill" -- a post-script today from the Institute of Experimental Medicine at Santiago, Chile. An attempt to put in it's proper perspective -- the Institute's recent report about an apparent relationship between oral contraceptives and cancer in women.

Dr. Abraham L^{ipschutz} admitting that the findings -- "at first glance -- may seem really alarming." But on closer study -- said he -- there appears to be little danger of cancer in normal use of "the pill." Only in extreme cases -- such as "continuous use for Thirty-Five-to-Forty years."

Dr. Lipschutz adding: "There are risks in many things -- aspirin, penicillin, antitetanus serum, even in crossing the road." "Our job" -- not to frighten people -- he concluded; simply "an effort to find out how all of these risks can be avoided -- including that of crossing the road."

LONDON

Here in New York -- city officials are currently fighting the battle of the "topless." Trying to get cocktail waitresses to cover up -- from the waist up. *And now,*

~~When~~ of a sudden -- this next from London. The story of a ~~Hundred~~ men, women and children -- who plan to go topless all the way down. *They say*

~~All, but it's~~ all in the name of good, clean fun. The daring ~~Hundred~~ -- nudists all; granted permission by a London Borough Council -- to bathe together -- in the altogether ^{at a} ~~in~~ a municipal bathhouse.

Another first -- in British history. Indeed, an official of the Central Council of British Naturism -- calling the occasion "a complete breakthrough for the nudist movement." In other words -- quite a splash.

RICHMOND

A novel approach to the study of arithmetic -- is reported today from Richmond, California. Local school officials urging adoption of a "pilot" project -- to give airplane rides to backward pupils. Especially those -- who appear to be poorly motivated. The idea -- that once back on the ground -- the pupils would have greater incentive to learn about mathematical things; such as -- air speed, altitude and fuel consumption.

Will it work? We may never know. The Richmond school district applying for funds from the state -- to get the flying program in operation. But ~~with~~^o initial cost^{is} set at Two Hundred Thousand ~~and~~^{and} ~~observers~~^{are} predicting: "It'll never get off the ground."