

CONFERENCE

L.T. - Obs. Mon. Mar, 27th. '61,

Today's conference between the President of the United States and the Soviet Foreign Minister - lasted an hour. President Kennedy and Andrei Gromyko, concentrating on - Laos. Afterward, both expressed hope - that something had been accomplished.

Gromyko reported - no reply from Khrushchev, concerning the British proposal for ending the Laotian crisis. But the Soviet Foreign Minister added - that the Kremlin reply should come soon, and he didn't give us any ^{well known - cool} of that ~~patented~~ Gromyko hostility - punctuated by the word "nyet."

Gromyko's attitude helped to explain - that of the administration. President Kennedy, hopeful that a ~~cease~~ ^{cease} ~~fire~~ ^{fire} can be arranged in Laos. Adlai Stevenson, who sat in on the White House meeting - echoes the sentiment.

Still - everything depends on Khrushchev. - If the Boss of the Kremlin accepts the British proposal -

a Laotian compromise might be quickly arrived at. If Khrushchev turns down the proposal - this could be a signal for western intervention in Laos; A move to prevent that nation in Southeast Asia - from being swamped by Red hordes.

ALGERIA

Paris is optimistic tonight - about the possibility of ending the Algerian war. The French government and the Moslem rebels have agreed to begin negotiations - on April Seventh. The place, Evian in France - on the shore of Lake Geneva. The agreement to negotiate was worked out over the weekend - in secret talks. So far, however - peace has not come to Algeria. Rebel leader Ferhat Abbas is calling on his forces - to continue fighting until a settlement is signed. Today, they obeyed - with hit and run attacks, - ~~throughout~~ ~~Algeria~~. Killing - nine French settlers and Moslem Loyalists. Wounding - more than fifty.

BELGIUM

The new Belgian crisis was caused by - the Congo. The loss of that vast African territory - forcing Premier Eyskens to introduce an austerity program, which led to - a wave of strikes against his regime. National unrest, so great - that Eyskens offered to resign weeks ago. He stayed on - at the request of King Baudouin.

But Eyskens suffered a staggering defeat - in the recent elections, And today - he finally resigned. Again bowing to the will of the King ^{— he} ^s staying on as the head of a caretaker government, ~~Eyskens, winding the store~~ until someone else takes over. Who will the someone else be? Around Brussels, rumor has it that the next Premier will be - Paul Henry Spaak, who used to be Secretary General of Nato.

CUBA

It's now official that the dictator of Cuba -
has lost his mouthpiece. Jose Pardo Llada - defecting from
Castro. Pardo, who used to be - the number one "Yankee
baiter" of the Cuban revolution. Like many others, he
gradually became ~~is~~ disillusioned - by Castro's Communism,
Finally, fleeing into exile in Mexico. Telling the U P I
today - that Castro is "caught in his own trap," ^{and is} Ready - to
be overthrown.

BUDGET

Kennedy
The Administration will be responsible for about
two thirds of the deficit - in the current fiscal year.

So says ~~the administration.~~ Budget Director Bell,

Bell said
Testifying on Capitol Hill ~~that~~ the deficit is expected
to exceed two billion. A third of it, a carry over from -
the Eisenhower administration. The rest, ~~is~~ due to
increased spending - by the Kennedy administration. *Budget Director* Bell
asserts that President Eisenhower ^{is} was over-optimistic -
in calculating this year's gross national product; ~~hence~~
~~the Eisenhower~~ prediction of - a surplus.

WEATHER

The weather-man has a report for us tonight ↑
that sounds like the replay of an old record. It's a
~~report of~~ floods, tornadoes, ~~falling~~ snow, lightning,
and winds of hurricane force.

Many rivers of the mid-west ~~are~~ over their banks -
the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Cedar, the Winnebago,
the Kickapoo. Thousands of homes ~~are~~ flooded - ⁱⁿ ~~throughout~~
Iowa and Wisconsin, ~~In~~ Illinois - tornadoes, ~~Terrific~~
winds, ~~driving through~~ ^{at a} hundred miles an hour, ~~and~~
~~Leaving~~ a trail of debris - trees, telephone poles, broken
glass, billboards, and a mountain of shingles. # Snow?
That's Montana's problem. Twenty-four ^{in one} inches ~~falling~~
~~as if it were the middle of winter.~~ So many ~~Rocky~~ ^{high}
~~Mountain~~ passes ~~have been~~ clogged by snow - that the
Montana National Guard is using helicopters for rescue
work.

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SPACE

The latest project announced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration - concerns the depths of the universe. Far beyond our solar system - ^{— far out} ~~and~~ into the Milky Way.

Project - a gamma ray telescope, to be put in orbit, ~~the mission~~ to measure atomic radiation from the galaxies; ^{of which} ~~the~~ star clusters [^] the Milky Way is one - - ~~that are~~ thousands of light years away. In other words, the light we see when we look at these stars - left them millions of years ago.

The gamma ray telescope is scheduled to be carried into orbit - by a Juno Two Rocket. It will sweep the heavens in outer space - where there's no atmosphere to blur the image. Send back information about - the buildings blocks of the universe.

KIDNAP

Last night's chase through Rome's historic Coliseum - must have been straight out of a Marx Brothers movie. Or - the Keystone Cops.

Leading the chase, Pasquale Tiquino - who thought he could make kidnapping pay off - just like in an Americano film he saw. He demanded a hundred and sixty thousand lire - from merchant Attilio Bianchi. A hundred and sixty thousand lire! - ~~that's about two hundred and fifty dollars.~~ Pasquale, ordering his victim to turn over the money - in the Coliseum. Or else - he'd kidnap Bianchi's two sons.

When Pasquale entered the famous Roman monument - he found it full of carabinieri. In a moment - the chase was on. Pasquale, racing past the seats - and across the amphitheatre. The cops of Rome - right after him. Around and around, up and down - through the Coliseum. Pasquale, darting toward the exits - finding all of them blocked. Finally, ~~HE WAS~~ out of breath - and was collared. As the carabinieri hustled him off ~~in a paddy wagon~~, Pasquale the

would-be kidnapper ^{said} ~~remarked~~ plaintively - "I feel like an
early Christian among the lions."

CIRCUS

~~A couple of circus stories in the news tonight.~~

The Barnum and Bailey circus train was on its way to New York ~~when it~~ got stalled near Newark. ~~The animals came to life~~ as their cars jolted ^{ing} to a halt. ~~They started the most unearthly din ever heard on the railroad. A medley of lions roaring, bears growling, elephants trumpeting, hippos snorting, and birds screeching. The circus performers, reacting just like - late commuters.~~

Meanwhile, in West Hempstead, New York - the Wirth circus is trying to decide what to do about one of its elephants. A prize pachyderm - called "jewel". He weighs six thousand pounds - and has been the star of the show since he joined it ten years ago.

Trainer Eric Frodelius was starting the act as usual - when his elephant suddenly went beserk. Knocking the trainer to the ground with his trunk - starting to trample him.

The audience, thinking it was part of the act -

burst into applause. Then, someone screamed - and panic whipped through the crowd. The enraged beast had to be prodded off - his victim. The trainer, pulled out of the ring - with severe injuries. Said Eric Frodelius, from his hospital bed - ^{please} "don't do anything to my elephant."

Please carry on, Dick!

CALLAS

Maybe you don't consider a lady's handbag - a dangerous weapon. Ah, but that's because you've never seen one swung by - Prima Donna Maria Callas. Today, the fabulous soprano dispersed a crowd of photographers - ~~by~~ using the weapon nearest to hand.

Maria, visiting the Chateau Country of France - with her good friend, shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. The two, ambushed by photographers - as they stepped out of their car. Whereupon, the prima donna started flailing - with her handbag. Raising bumps on the noggins of the photographers - who forgot to duck. Maria Callas, as tempestuous in private life - as she is in the opera.