

November 7, 1969

Mike Wallace

(Taken from carbon copy
original script lost.)

MIDDLE EAST

News of the Middle East - a series of stories today running from good to bad to worse.

Starting at the top - U.S. Undersecretary of State Elliot Richardson calling a press conference in London. There asserting that the U.S. and Russia have reached "a substantial degree of agreement" - on the principles of a new Mideast peace formula.

However, the words were scarcely out of his mouth - when Tel Aviv issued a direct warning to Lebanon and Syria. Israeli Deputy Premier Yigal Allon noting that both are extremely vulnerable - should they allow Arab guerillas to go too far.

Later, in Washington - a statement from Secretary of State William Rogers. Blasting Egypt's President Nasser - for his "lood and fire" speech of yesterday. Rogers further suggested that Nasser may have dealt a death blow - to any hope of an early settlement.

SENATE

Elsewhere in Washington - a resolution was introduced today in the Senate - by the leaders of both parties. A resolution - quickly endorsed by Forty Senators; like the one approved yesterday in ^{the} House committee - fully supporting President Nixon's efforts to achieve a negotiated peace in Vietnam. Beyond that, the Senate version urging an attempt at achieving a cease-fire on both sides - also, free elections in South Vietnam. These - additions approved beforehand by the White House.

They were not approved, however - by Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations; who has since threatened a delaying action - to stall passage. Senator Fulbright saying he was fearful the resolution - would give the "wrong impression". The Senator contending there is not - as the measure implies - "a great deal of unity and support for the President."

WIRES FOLLOW SENATE

Be that as it may - Western Union in New York served up an interesting statistic today. Reporting that the President received about fifty-two thousand telegrams - in the forty-eight hours immediately following ~~his~~ his recent Vietnam speech. A spokesman adding that "no one here - can remember a heavier or more intense response to a Presidential speech."

WASHINGTON
CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the countdown begins. Space workers starting promptly at twelve noon - the task of priming that Apollo-Twelve spacecraft for its upcoming moon-shot. All systems pointing toward an on-time launch - at exactly eleven-twenty-two next Friday morning.

As for the men of Apollo-Twelve - they were still busily drilling in space simulators this morning; turning this afternoon to another review of lunar topography - which they hope soon to explore first-hand.

WASHINGTON

NEW YORK

The U.S. unemployment rate - down slightly last month. Dropping to three-point-nine per cent - as compared with a September figure of four per cent - highest in the last two years.

This - according to government statisticians; who added that for all intents and purposes - the unemployment rate thus remains "virtually unchanged." Which means, in turn - we are told - that the President's anti-inflationary drive - is continuing to take hold.

HELITO IRPINO

NEW YORK

Here in New York - Marine Corporal Raffaele

Minichiello was indicted today by a Federal grand jury.

Charges against him including air piracy, kidnapping and

assault - in the course of that airliner hijacking to ~~London~~

Rome last week. The indictment also cleared the way for

extradition proceedings in Italy - to start probably in a week

or two.

MELITO IRPINO

At the same time, oddly enough - Minichiello was being hailed as a hero today - in his home town of Melito Irpino, Italy. A local beauty - who would like to marry him - saying of Minichiello: "He's better than the heroes in the movies." A local farmer saying: "If they send him to jail - there is going to be a riot."

Even the Mayor - Genarro Capasso - urging official leniency. Suggesting, what's more, that T.W.A. - whose plane was hijacked - "ought to join us in trying to have him released." The Mayor asserting that Minichiello gave the airlines - "unprecedented advertising." Adding that the overall flight - "was an unprecedented show of efficiency."

Meantime, in Rome - an Italian film company today announced plans - to make a film based on the hijacking. A film that will use as its title - the first words that Minichiello addressed to the Italian officers who arrested him: "Paisan, perche m'arresti?" Or, in English: "Countrymen, why are you arresting me?"

**(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE ABOUT JIMMY
THOMPSON)**

*Next up - Lowell Thomas; as he continues on around
the world - reporting tonight from Bangkok in Thailand.*

Lowell...

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE ABOUT JIMMY THOMPSON)

Thank you, Lowell. More - in a moment.

SPOTS

Washington again - the music world mourns tonight - the death of one of its greats from out of the past. Ivory Deek Watson - at fourteen, a member of the original Ink Spots quartet. Composer of a host of hits - including: "If I Didn't Care" - "I Love You for Sentimental Reasons" - "We'll Meet Again." Passing away in the capital - where he had made his home for the past six months.

Ivory Deek Watson - he was only fifty-six.

By the way, the photo most sought-after by letter-writers - that of the President, of course. And the second most sought-after photo - said Tricia - that of the three White House dogs.

WHITE HOUSE

Here's one - perhaps best entitled "Life With Father."

Pretty Tricia Nixon discussing today - her first ten months in the White House. Noting, for example, that the President has a sort of - "dinner table Cabinet;" including family members and close friends - who frequently take issue with official policy. However, Tricia observed: "He doesn't mind if you disagree with him - he finds it challenging to be challenged."

She also disclosed that the President - absolutely abhors watching himself on television. "Once he's said it - that's it" - said Tricia.

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