

LOWELL THOMAS
OCTOBER 18, 1966
(DALLAS TOWNSEND)

PAGO PAGO

Good evening, everybody---For President Johnson--a brief stopover tonight at Pango Pango in American Samoa. On the second leg--of his Asian and Pacific tour.

First American President to visit the territory--Mr. Johnson taking the occasion once more to emphasize the brotherhood of man; the universal desire of all the world's peoples--"to be independent and stand on their self-respect."

"At home--it's called pride"--said the President. "In Asia--it's called face." But call it what you will--it is that which "makes all of us members of the same race;" which "makes us know that in emerging Asia--and throughout the world--there is no place for second-class citizens."

Next stop--Wellington, New Zealand; on of our allies in the Viet Nam war.

VIET NAM

As sure as death and taxes--the rains came today to Viet Nam. A torrential downpour--enveloping the demilitarized zone --between North and South. Flooding American positions--partly nullifying American power. And perhaps setting the stage--for that long-expected Communist monsoon offensive.

To the South--emergency precautions ordered today by American commanders. To counter a sudden Viet Cong terrorist campaign--that has killed or wounded on towards 100 persons in less than two days.

LIMA

The death toll in that titanic earth quake--off the coast of Lima, Peru--still climbing. Latest reports--indicating at least a Hundred and Twenty-five dead. Estimates of the injured--ranging anywhere from Eight Hundred to Three Thousand. Along with Thousands more--left homeless.

Peruvians swarming into churches--in the wake of the disaster. Imploring divine intervention--against the possibility of another tremor.

Nevertheless, a second strong quake was, indeed, reported today--from Colombia to the North. Its epicenter--apparently at the city of Villa Vicencio. However, no immediate report--on casualties or damage.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

With Lowell Thomas presently in Europe--another special report tonight--on a spectacle uniquely American.

Hello Dallas, Good Evening Everybody:

I'm always reluctant to be away from home in the autumn. Our New England autumn is a phenomenon, a spectacle unmatched - in the world.

Here in Britain, in the fall - nice - but not the same. The weather won't cooperate. Too wet - darkening the colors. Likewise on the continent; and, in Asia - and in most southern climes - where it's either too hot or too cold; too much rain or too little, where there are no trees at all - or too many that are evergreens - too many for a colorful autumn.

New England's hardwood forests - by contrast - just right for our glorious autumn spectacle. And, the weather, clear sunny days and cool crisp nights - ideal for full development of that autumn display.

And the appeal is so great - as you know - that railroad and bus lines offer special excursions. New

England communities time their special occasions - such as Fairs and festivals = to fit this colorful period of the year.

Now the poets may talk of dead leaves - as "pestilence-stricken multitudes" - Shelly did. But the brilliance of Autumn in New England - it's as welcome as the winter snow when it comes with that skiing season that follows - and,

Solong until tomorrow.

WASHINGTON (SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE)

Lowell, as you point out--in New England--railroad excursions to see the fall colors, although the weather right right now, not quite ideal. But in Washington--a rail roadblock put up today by the Supreme Court. Blocking that propped merger--of the Pennsylvania and New York Central Railroads.

In a two-page order--the High Court agreeing to consider objections to the merger--objections raised by competing lines. Oral arguments in the case--set for January Ninth.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations--Foreign Minister Yanosh Peter of Communist Hungary--self-appointed Spokesman today for Communist North Viet Nam. Asserting flatly that the United States has made "no real and valid" offer as yet--that could possibly end the war in the Far East.

According to Peter--America's "lack of really peaceful intentions"--proven by its effort to induce negotiations--by offering to end the bombing of North Viet Nam. This--said Peter--misses the main point entirely.. Which is--he went on--that the mere presence of U.S. bases in Viet Nam--is of itself a clear violation of the Geneva Agreements on Southeast Asia.

In effect, a restatement of Hanoi's demand for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops--as a prerequisite to any peace talks.

MOSCOW FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

In Russia--a display of military muscle today by the Soviet Army. For the benefit of Eight visiting Communist leaders--at that so-called Red summit meeting.

The demonstration reportedly including a show of tank and infantry power--at a camp just outside Moscow; similar to the show presented for the benefit of French President Charles DeGaulle--on his "Mission to Moscow" last June.

The current Red visitors due tomorrow at Baikonur--Russia's Central Asian space center; to witness the launching of an unmanned satellite--and to view the Kremlin's most powerful rockets.

NEW YORK

Cosmetics queen Elizabeth Arden--who reigned over a worldwide beauty empire--dead today in New York. Elizabeth Arden--a tiny, dynamic woman in her prime. But in failing health--for the past few years. She was Eighty-Two...or so.

CONGRESS

In Congress, prospects of a quickie increase in Social Security benefits--all but killed today by the House Ways and Means Committee. Democrats and Republicans on the Committee--unable to agree on how the higher benefits should be financed. Each side eventually blaming the other--for the stalemate.

Be that as it may--the impasse providing at least one side-benefit--as far as most Congressmen were concerned. The disagreement appearing to brighten prospects--that Congress may be able to adjourn late this week--as long hoped.

LONDON

This next--a television note from London. The British Broadcasting Corporation--presenting a panel discussion; on the subject of--"Man, the Super Animal." Principal speakers including--Dr. Robin Fox--and Dr. Lionel Tiger.

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Good night.

The City of New York gets a turndown from a U.N. delegate. Jamil Baroody, ambassador of Saudi Arabia, says U.N. headquarters should be moved to a neutral country. He doesn't want the U.N. to consider Secretary General's U Thant's proposals for additional sky-scraper construction at the East River site. Instead, says Baroody, the U.N. should consider the advantage of moving to some European country--for example, Switzerland, Austria, or France...perhaps Cyprus, Turkey, or the Soviet Crimea...some place where there is cheaper living, more relaxation, and clean air.

But as for New York...Ambassador Baroody calls it a "bedlam"--with traffic jams, parking problems, crowds, noise, air pollution, water shortages and lack of trees. The physical atmosphere of this town, he says, is becoming un-endurable. A new headache for Mayor Lindsay.

Good night,