

Tues., October 31, 1972
Charles Osgood

WHITE HOUSE

In Paris - in Vietnam - October Thirty-First has already come and gone; and a Communist deadline notwithstanding - there is still no peace treaty.

Here at home - the White House today attempting to explain why. News Secretary Ron Ziegler saying: 'It is the President's firm intention - to have a settlement which will offer the best hope for lasting peace; a peace that does not leave the seeds of a future conflict' - but rather provides "the people of South Vietnam with the means of determining their own future."

Ziegler adding emphatically: "The only deadline we are operating under - is the one that will bring about the right agreement."

VIETNAM FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

In the meantime, the fighting continues - with stepped up ground action today the length and breadth of South Vietnam. The Communist side attempting to seize whatever it can - in anticipation of an in-place cease-fire; the Saigon regime attempting to hold fast - and maybe even win back a town or two.

In the air war - U.S. B-Fifty-Twos completing a record series of strikes against the Communist North. Hitting enemy targets - with nearly two thousand tons of explosives.

SYRACUSE

Turning to the domestic front - George McGovern was campaigning today in Upstate New York. At Syracuse, charging that President Nixon is afraid to stand up - to, quote, "the gold platers and the big wasters in the Pentagon." McGovern adding that the President, if re-elected - "will continue to starve our cities and towns."

The Democratic nominee was also asked today about the latest polls - which still show him trailing badly. McGovern replying: "That's wrong and inaccurate information - which we'll have to disprove on Tuesday."

PRESIDENT FOLLOW SYRACUSE

The White House again - an announcement today that President Nixon is planning a last-minute push via radio and TV; five nationwide broadcasts, in all - including an election-eve television speech.

The White House added, however, that the President will make just one personal appearance - at an airport rally Saturday at Ontario, California. From there, traveling on to San Clemente - where he plans to vote Tuesday and then return to the White House to await results.

TEL AVIV

In the Middle East, Israeli troops were ordered at full alert today - along the ~~Israeli~~ frontier with Syria. This following action yesterday - said to have constituted the heaviest fighting between Israel and Syria in more than two years.

Meanwhile, an explosion today in Israel's tallest building in Tel Aviv - injuring three persons. An Israeli police spokesman saying: "It was definitely sabotage."

Britain's Queen Elizabeth, her diamond crown gleaming - a splendid sight today in her gilded state coach; complete with mounted horse guards, front and rear - and all the pomp and circumstance we normally associate with British royalty.

The Queen traveling to the House of Commons - where she formally opened a new session of Parliament. But the Queen's nine-minute speech - which was written by her Tory government - containing little, if anything, new. Indeed, the whole affair falling somewhat flat - as witness the following:

Seventy-four-year-old Sir Robert Cary - arriving well in advance of the Queen's appearance; thus, winning the traditional race among members of Parliament - to see who can get to his seat first. A pyrrhic victory at best - since nobody else was there."

Sir Robert later observing: "In the old days - some of us used to be here at Four A.M. - but not now."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "MOUNTBATTEN"

*And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;
telling tonight about the latest undertaking - of Britain's
famed Lord Louis Mountbatten. Lowell....*

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "MOUNTBATTEN"

Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.

CLEVELAND

*The trials and tribulations of a dog-catcher -
subject of this next from Cleveland. Chief Dog Warden
George Buehl - saying he's dreadfully short of manpower.
Adding: "You can waste a lot of time - chasing a dog."
Therefore, announcing today - the start of a new system.*

*From now on - says Chief Dog Warden Buehl -
"we're going to follow the dog home - and give his owner
a Ten Dollar ticket." For offending dog-owners - rough,
rough!*

For Lowell Thomas - this is Charles Osgood.

Thank you and good night.