

LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE - February 23, 1962

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I would have liked to be in three places today - all rather far apart - Cape Canaveral, Florida, of course; Anchorage, Alaska, where they are having their annual fur carnival, ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ honoring ^{of} the greatest ^{team driver} dog ~~is team~~ of them all, Leonhard Seppala. ^{and} The third, ~~place,~~ Laconia, New Hampshire, scene of what are called the World^{'s} Championship Dog Sled Races. I had promised to come to Laconia, when no one dreamed ~~that~~ today would be astronaut day at Cape Canaveral. So, I mushed to Lacconia by way of Vermont where my dog dog team almost left me in a deep snow bank.

If you were listening today, you heard the President say at Cape Canaveral: Colonel John Glenn has been launched into public orbit. The astronaut Colonel now and henceforth one of the most famous of all Americans.

Obviously anxious to leave the spotlight - on the hero of the occasion - the President - spent less than two hours - at the Cape. But long enough to greet Astronaut Glenn - and thank him in the name of the American people, and pin the Distinguished Service Medal on the Marine Colonel's tunic.

~~This, after John Glenn escorted his commander-in-chief around the rocket base. You can imagine their feelings - when they reached launch Pad Fourteen. The pad from which the flight into space began - last Tuesday. Glenn finally completing his round trip - from launch Pad Fourteen, into orbit around the world - and back to launch pad Fourteen, today, with the President.~~

RECEPTION FOLLOW GLENN

The Glenn family was there - of course, also, technicians, astronauts; the Florida Governor; the head of the Marine Corps, the Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. But, most important of all - the American people. Ordinary citizens from every walk of life. A hundred thousand of them lining the route - from the airport to the Cape; including twenty thousand school children, allowed out of class for one of the great moments of their lives. Youngsters who will be able to tell their grandchildren how they were there - on February Twenty-Third, Nineteen Sixty two, to welcome our first orbiting astronaut upon his return from outer space.

BERLIN

As for the other ~~The~~ Kennedy's, ^{they} were on both sides of the Berlin wall - today. Bobby Kennedy, in West Berlin - explaining our attitude toward the crisis provoked by Khrushchev. Ted Kennedy crossing the border - for a look behind the Iron Curtain.

The Attorney General was obviously speaking to both East and West Germany - when he pointed out that the division of ~~the~~ ^{at} nation is "a fact of life." Imposed and maintained - by the Red Army. And, there's not much - we can do about it.

But ~~Bobby Kennedy~~ ^{he} added quickly - that we will not allow the Red army to occupy West Berlin. That ~~we~~ we are pledged to keep open - the access routes to the beleaguered city. In his words, "we will keep flying to Berlin." And he added that our planes will stay in the air - no matter how Khrushchev reacts.

As for Ted Kennedy - he had some remarks of his own. The President's youngest brother crossing the border - both ways.

Strolling around - talking to the people of East Berlin. Ted's verdict on his experience - "what I saw over there, demonstrates the sterility of the Communist way of life."

INDIA

Over the weekend, eight hundred thousand Indians will decide - a key issue of the free world. To vindicate, or not to vindicate - Krishna Menon.

The eight hundred thousand Indians are the voters of North Bombay. Krishna Menon's constituency - where he is up for re-election - Strongly challenged by ^{Dr.} Acharya Kripalani - who calls Nehru's Defense Minister "a crypto-Communist." Kripalani who has repeatedly challenged Krishna Menon - in the New Delhi Parliament, Asking why the Indian Defense Minister doesn't do something about - the invaders from Red China, on the soil of Northern India.

Krishna Menon, of course, holds one trump card. The unwaivering support of - the Prime Minister. Whether the Nehru ~~trump~~ trump will win the political game - is of concern far beyond Bombay. Far beyond India.

Here's the latest. The anti-Menon party's charge that the Reds have moved in on his campaign, ousting the Bombay members of the Congress party.

~~Making~~ a straight Communist bid to re-elect Krishna Menon.

ALBANIA

There's an ironic twist - in a ~~is~~ dispatch from Bonn. No - not the fact that Albania is buying wheat from West Germany, instead of from Russia. After all, Tirana and Moscow are not speaking to one another - or trading with one another. So the Albanians had to go to the West - for food. And they went - to West Germany.

The irony is that this wheat was actually grown in the Soviet Union. Khrushchev selling his harvest to a Swiss firm - which passed it on to West Germany. The West Germans, now making a deal with Albania. Khrushchev's wheat for Khrushchev's most bitter enemy in the Communist bloc.

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As for the championship dog sled races here at Laconia, New Hampshire, some three hundred sled dogs left the starting line, all of them straining in their harness, wild to get going on a rugged twenty mile cross country race. And they have to do it again tomorrow and again on Sunday. With Mayor ^{Huet} ~~J. Oliver Huet~~ and Mrs. Stiles Bridges, I was at the starting line for the count down. The Governor General of Canada, Field Marshall Viscount Alexander, filling ^{ed my} ~~ing the same~~ role here on another occasion. He was supposed to end the count by saying the usual five-four-three-two-one - go! Instead he was very British about it and said - three-two-one -- away! And not a dog moved.

* If you are anywhere near Laconia you should be on hand for these races tomorrow and Sunday. In the lead at the moment is ~~Lucky~~ Pierre Brunet from Gatineau Point, Quebec. But, there are a dozen others right on ^{Lucky Pierre's} ~~his~~ heels, including Dr. Charles Belford, of Deerfield, Massachusetts of all

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places. How did the Doctor become a musher? Does he call on his patients with a dog team at Deerfield, Massachusetts? Dick, I hear it has been his hobby for many years, and he was the world's champion in Nineteen Fifty-six. So look out Lucky Pierre, there's some one on your heels with forty mis. to go.

SPACE

We've heard a lot about space men. But what about space women? Jerrie Cobb of Cape Canaveral - says we could put a lady into orbit - and do it now. Namely - Jerrie Cobb, who has trained to be our first - feminine astronaut. She was in the control room during the Glenn flight; and now is waiting - to blast off herself.

In a space capsule with more than one passenger? Interesting idea. Boy and girl go spinning, in orbit. Dick, how about a space flight with Jerrie?