

L.T. -- FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1967

(Dallas Townsend substituting)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A three-judge criminal District Court panel in New Orleans ruled late today that Clay Shaw should be held for trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy. The ruling came at the end of a four-day preliminary hearing requested by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

DODD

On Capitol Hill -- an abrupt halt today; to week-long hearings held by the Senate Ethics Committee in the case of Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut.

Dod himself -- the final witness. Testifying opening that he spent more than a Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars in political contributions -- to pay personal bills. Denying, however, that the money was obtained by trickery -- and branding his chief accuser a bare-faced liar.

At the end of three hours on the stand -- Dodd declaring emphatically: "I never held myself out as a halo-wearer. But I tell you" -- said he -- "I haven't been trimming the government."

Committee Chairman John Stennis of Mississippi -- thereupon adjourning the hearing without comment, saying only the panel will now begin work -- on its final report.

RED CHINA

Continuing crisis -- in Red China. Reports reaching Hong Kong -- saying that vast areas of the country are now under martial law. With the Red Chinese Army said to be exercising its most extensive control-- since the Communists seized power in Nineteen-Fifty.

This -- we're told -- the shattering aftermath of Chairman Mao's so-called cultural revolution. With Communist Party apparatus in disarray -- and the Army the only effective means of preventing chaos.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam -- a series of costly "quick-draw" battles today -- on the fringes of the buffer zone. North Vietnamese troops -- probing for soft spots in American defenses.

Helicopter-borne reinforcements -- quickly plugging the gaps. Nevertheless, some eighty Marines -- reported killed or wounded in the deadly duel. As for Communist dead -- no time to count.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations -- Secretary General U Thant confirmed -- that he is engaged in a new Viet Nam peace effort. Bearing out an earlier statement -- from Philippines Foreign Secretary Ramos in Manila.

As to results though -- Ramos saying that's "very classified." Which drew the remark from Thant -- that his comment on Ramos' comment was "classified, too."

A spokesman for Thant later adding, however -- that the Secretary General is acting as a private individual -- and not ~~as~~ in his official capacity. "What he is doing is being done quietly" -- said the spokesman, "because no useful purpose will be served by any public announcement -- at this juncture."

ST. PATRICKS PARADE

The Irish staged their annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Fifth Avenue in New York this afternoon -- but it was a struggle. Snow had been coming down for hours before parade-time -- it was bitter cold -- and there was a brutal wind. But just about noon the snow stopped and the sun came out. That didn't ease the bitter cold any, nor the wind -- but the Irish did march. ~~So~~ Even so, it was the smallest St. Patrick's Day parade in recent years -- and only about half the number of marchers expected -- actually showed up. The others paid tribute to Ireland's patron saint in other ways -- equally time-honored, and not as strenuous. So the luck of the Irish held out after all -- more or less.

church leaders, his attorney and friends.

PALM SUNDAY

Day after tomorrow is Palm Sunday -- and Harlem had been set for great excitement -- because Adam Clayton Powell promised that on Palm Sunday he would leave his vacation retreat in the Bahamas and campaign for re-election in his congressional district.

But Powell won't be coming after all. Late today he announced that he has called off his return to Harlem on Sunday. The reason -- possible widespread violence and disorders. Harlem -- described as tense because of the chance that if Powell showed up there, he might be arrested in connection with his legal difficulties in New York state. Powell made his decision to stay in Bimini on the advice of church leaders, his attorney and friends.

From Senator Robert Kennedy of New York -- an assessment today of President Johnson -- unexpectedly favorable -- in view of recent reported friction between the two men.

LBJ is "an outstanding president" -- said Robert Kennedy. Adding that he looks forward to campaigning for the Chief Executive -- in Nineteen-Sixty-Eight.

What about that reported feud? Said Robert Kennedy "I think it's inevitable -- there should be political differences in a democracy." But differences notwithstanding -- said he -- "I have great admiration for what the President has done."

ATLANTIC CITY

A long-simmering labor feud -- wide out in the open today. United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther -- unleashing a bitter attack on AFL-CIO President George Meany.

The forum -- a UAW conference at Atlantic City. Reuther telling cheering delegates -- that Meany is "the plumber" with "a banker's mentality." Asserting that the "American labor movement is vegetating" -- under Meany's command.

Reuther adding that the AFL-CIO represents "labor unity in form -- not in substance." "You can't have labor unity", he said, "in the form of a big zero."

But Reuther added -- the auto workers union still has not made a decision about withdrawing from the labor federation.

ECONOMY

On the economic front -- President Johnson today released another Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Million in federal funds. Part of more than Five Billion earmarked for Federal programs -- that he set aside last year to help cool the economy.

Nearly half the newly-released money -- ticketed for Federal aid to highway construction. Another Two Hundred and Fifty Million -- for special mortgage assistance in low-cost housing. The rest -- for farm projects, flood control and school aid.

The President observing that his holdback last fall -- had succeeded "in reducing the overheating, which then threatened the American economy." "Inflationary pressures have subsided" -- said he.

ROWING

A father and son rowing team left Gloucester, Massachusetts, this morning and headed for England the hard way -- rowing a sixteen-foot dory. But they didn't get far. Lewis Mills, aged fifty-four, a former truck driver and lobster fisherman -- set out with his son Lewis, Jr., aged twenty-one. They rowed about fifteen miles in six hours. But the waters of the Atlantic were choppy -- and there was an icy wind. Father and son reached a point off Cape Ann -- and then -- they turned around and headed back to Gloucester. Warren -- on a day like this -- who could blame them?

LONDON

A strange story -- comes from London. Telling of a man who bought an insurance policy in Nineteen-Oh-One -- at the age of Thirty-Two. A fourteen thousand dollar policy-- that increased in value every year; to the point where it now has a cash value of One Hundred and Ten Thousand dollars.

As for the policy-holder -- he's now Ninety-Eight years old, alone in the world, and he could use the money. But instead of cashing in the policy -- he decided to sell it at auction. The policy drawing a high bid -- of One Hundred and Forty Thousand dollars; its estimated value -- two years from now.

The buyer thus, in effect, betting Thirty thousand -- that the policy-holder will live to be a hundred -- and then some. The old man -- for his part -- assured at least one heartfelt mourner -- when he finally departs this earth. And let's hope it won't be soon.