

H. T. - Buick, Fisher. Tues. May 31st '66,

In the Heavens high above -- and on the earth here below -- all systems apparently "go" today in the American space program.

The moon-bound U.S. Surveyor spacecraft -- successfully completing a delicate mid-course maneuver; that put it right on the target in the area chosen as a potential site -- for future manned landing on the moon.

Jubilant space officials terming the Surveyor -- "flawless." Adding that as far as the goal of a soft landing is concerned -- "we now have every reason to be optimistic."

A similar mood at Cape Kennedy -- with all in seeming readiness for tomorrow's thrill-packed flight of the Gemini-Nine. Then -- a sudden problem. Trouble in an Atlas rocket -- the same kind of trouble that washed out the spacecraft's first scheduled launch -- early this month.

Latest word -- a tentative green light as of tonight. Space observers admitting, however -- "we're holding our breath."

SAFETY

A massive Billion-Dollar annual highway safety program ^{was} urged today by President Howard Pyle of the National Safety Council; in the wake of the bloodiest Memorial Day traffic record -- in the nation's history.

Pyle contending that about half of those killed in weekend traffic -- out of a total death list of some five hundred -- were the victims of inadequate safety standards. Adding that an effective safety program -- above and beyond that now before Congress -- could save as many as twenty-five thousand lives each year.

VIETNAM

Halfway round the world -- in Viet Nam -- Premier Ky held tentative peace talks today with Buddhist leaders; amid increasing signs that the Buddhist drive to topple his military government -- is fast crumbling.

That is everywhere -- but at the ancient imperial capital of Hue, where a seventeen-year-old girl -- burned herself to death and rebellious students are still vowing a fight to the finish, in defiance of Dy's order to surrender -- "or else."

Meanwhile, U.S. warplanes today struck their greatest blow of the year -- against Communist North Viet Nam. Close to three hundred sorties -- in all. Taking full advantage -- of the best flying weather in two weeks.

HOOVER

There is "a growing influx of Chinese Communists into the Western Hemisphere," -- ^{*That was made*} charged today by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The Chinese agents said to be storming the West -- through their embassy in Communist Cuba. The objective -- said J. Edgar -- "an intensive campaign of treachery and subversion -- throughout other parts of the Americas."

The FBI Director also reporting a run on the market -- for American technical and scientific publications; loaded with valuable business information -- that eventually winds up in Red China. Though unclassified -- said J. Edgar -- the materials have saved the Chinese "incalculable time and resources -- in their race" to build an effective war machine.

CUBA

Continued repercussions today -- from the weekend sinking of a so-called "pirate launch" off the coast of Cuba. A boat bearing a number of Cuban exiles -- who were attempting to infiltrate their homeland.

Havana charging that the entire affair -- was a plot by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. With ^{the} infiltrators allegedly paid assassins -- assigned to kill Fidel Castro.

U.S. reaction -- in a word -- "ridiculous."

WARSAW FOLLOW CUBA

A related item -- from Warsaw. Cuban students studying in Poland -- today attacking the U.S. Embassy there. Smashing windows and hurling bottles of red ink -- at the big modern building. ^{This} Following an impassioned speech -- by the Cuban Ambassador to Poland.

Fernando Florez Ibarra asserting that the United States -- is trying to provoke Cuba at Guantanamo; the reason-- said he -- "to justify later American aggression against" Cuba. The Ambassador concluding:-- "we need volunteers not to cut sugar cane -- but to cut off the heads of U.S. Marines."

The riot -- shortly thereafter. But quickly quelled -- by a call for police.

CONGO

A hurried ninety-minute trial today -- at Leopoldville; for former Congolese Premier Evariste Kimba -- and three other ex-Cabinet ministers; accused of high treason-- in an alleged plot to overthrow the government.

After seven minutes more of deliberation -- a three-man military court pronouncing judgment. The verdict -- guilty as charged. The sentence -- death by hanging. Thousands of Congolese -- spectators at the open trial -- chanting "mort, mort" -- death, death -- as the prisoners were led away.

A Belgian diplomat -- earlier expelled from the country; for alleged complicity -- in the plot.

BLANCHARD

General William H. Blanchard -- Number Two man in the U.S. Air Force -- victim today of a fatal heart attack. The General stricken during a staff conference -- at the Pentagon.

"Butch" Blanchard -- one of the most distinguished Air Force officers in World War Two. Serving with Curtis LeMay -- in preparations for delivery of the first atomic bomb. In the 'Fifties -- the man directly in charge of installing U.S. missiles in Britain. Later -- Inspector General of the Air Force; before his final appointment -- as Vice Chief of Staff. He was fifty.

SAFE

From Delmont, Pennsylvania -- the story today of a safe job -- that was more trouble than it was worth. Burglars breaking into the local gasoline storage firm -- and using dynamite in an attempt to blow open the company safe.

The unexpected result -- a big bang that shattered nineteen windows -- mangled a filing cabinet -- and splintered two desks; but left the safe -- still intact.

Company officials later estimating total damage -- at about a Thousand Dollars. Just a little bit more than the total amount of money -- safe inside the safe.

CHILDREN

In Washington -- a national education group today urged a drastic reduction in the compulsory school age for children; from the present six years -- to only four.

The group of scholars observing that four-year-olds -- already have a "considerable part of the intellectual ability -- they will possess as adults." Adding that failure to take advantage of this ability -- "generally limits the flowering of their potentials."

In short, the youngster left to his own devices -- said to be, far too often, a failure at five. And now here's Stewart Metz who must have started his formal education at four!

HUMPHREY

The burden of affluence -- topic of a hard-hitting speech tonight by Vice President Hubert Humphrey; at Huron College -- in his home town of Huron, South Dakota.

The Vice President declaring that the United States must learn to accept abuse -- not gratitude -- in its efforts to achieve a better world; in its efforts to help poorer nations -- in the fields of food, health and education.

Hubert Humphrey asserting "the most we can expect -- is this: That there may be no doubt that we Americans -- have the vision, the endurance and the courage -- to stand for what we believe."

ALTERNATE ENDING FOR SPACE STORY

Latest word: The mission--once again--
temporarily postponed. Another ~~bitter~~ disappointment--
for astronauts Cernan and Stafford.