

July 26, 1971
Dallas Townsend

Good evening everybody. Apollo-Fifteen got off to a flawless start this morning from the Kennedy Space Center - but in the past several hours a problem has developed. Astronauts Scott, Irwin and Worden discovered it when they separated the command module - Endeavour - from the Saturn rocket that launched them - then turned around to dock with the lunar landing craft, Falcon. The docking was successful - but in the course of the maneuver a light came on - indicating that the main engine of the spacecraft might be about to fire. Flight director Gerald Griffin - at the manned spacecraft center in Houston - says ground controllers are not sure whether this is a real problem - or just a short circuit in the warning light. They'll conduct a test later tonight - in an effort to locate the trouble. If there is a short in one particular span of wire, controlling critical fuel values, Griffin says it would force cancellation of the lunar landing for security reasons. So - right now - a

question mark over Apollo-Fifteen as it heads for the moon.

But on the assumption that the landing will take place, President Nixon today issued a statement saying that Man is on his way to another step across the threshold to the heavens. Adding that "we hope by this journey to know better the origins of Earth, the Moon and the planets We hope to understand something more - of the mysteries of God's great work; and, in this seeking - we hope to understand more of man himself."

Still another major offensive was launched today - in South Vietnam's A Shau Valley. This one - consisting of a ground sweep by government troops - with U.S. air and artillery support; an attempt to cut off enemy infiltration - which has suddenly blossomed anew.

On the political front - back in Saigon - retired General Duong Van Minh today declared himself officially a candidate for President. The famed "Big Minh" - pledging to end the war and liberate his country "from foreign control." Adding, however, that he would "pull out" - if there were any indication that the election might be rigged.

LONDON

Britain's former Prime Minister - Harold Wilson - called a news conference today; marking the publication of his new book - "The Labor Government, Nineteen-Sixty-Four to-Nineteen-Seventy."

Wilson saying that President Johnson - during that period - had urged him to send to Vietnam at least a token force of British troops; to do so - even if it was only "a platoon of bagpipers." But he always refused -said Wilson. Adding that a recent charge LBJ had attempted to force him to send troops - was, in his own words, "a libel on me and on Mr. Johnson.

STRIKES

Contract talks broke off today between the railroad industry and the United Transportation Union - which already has struck four carriers and threatens to strike others. Negotiations have been recessed indefinitely - and Secretary of Labor James Hodgson has ordered strike-ending legislation drafted - along the lines recommended last year by a presidential board. Sources close to the talks say the legislation is being made ready at the labor department with White House concurrence - and it may be sent to Congress as early as tomorrow.

SENATE FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

There was an attempt today to cut off Senate debate - on legislation aimed at saving the near-bankrupt Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. But the bill's backers - failed by eighteen votes to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority; which means they'll have to try again - later this week.

KHARTOUM

At Khartoum in Sudan - a firing squad executing two more rebel leaders - Lieutenant Colonel Babakr Al Nour and Major Farouk Osman Hamadallah. These - you may recall - the two men who were taken forcibly from a British airliner - last week in Libya; and later sent home under armed guard - to meet their doom.

SOFIA FOLLOW KHARTOUM

At the same time, a report that Communist Bulgaria - helped engineer that short-lived Sudanese coup; which could mean trouble for the Soviet position - throughout the Middle East. Observers explaining that Bulgaria is Russia's closest ally; - and takes no major step, either at home or abroad, without prior Soviet approval.

LISBON

For Vice President Spiro Agnew - a visit today to Lisbon, Portugal; the last stop - on his thirty-two-day around the world tour; with a driving rain - cutting short an already brief reception. Nevertheless, the Vice President issuing a statement - praising Portugal as "the nation which led the old world in the discovery of the new." Adding that modern-day Portugal "is a loyal member of the great alliance of free states - dedicated to the preservation of traditional values - upon which our Western civilization and culture are based."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "WOLVES"

*Next - Lowell Thomas; / discussing tonight - one
of the most misunderstood of America's endangered species.*

Lowell...

Did you ever hear a wolf howl? If not in person - maybe in the movies - or on television? Wrong. That wolf wasn't howling - he was singing.

This is based on a recent study of wolves which tells of wolves in chummy duets - melodious arias - rumbling cadenzas. In fact, whole packs of wolves - in tremendous "howl-alongs." A sort of grand opera - of primitive nature. The wolf's secret lies - in the fact that he has vocal chords much like man.

Contrary to popular notion - the wolf also has other attributes. He's the ideal family man - usually, mating for life; further, defending his she-wolf and his cubs - with his own life; if need be. What's more, he plays a key role in checking rodents - in destroying surplus big game that would otherwise become weakened - and eventually extinct - through overpopulation.

Unfortunately, the wolf - says the National Geographic - is on the road to extinction. A victim of bounty-hunters - hired by angry cattlemen and farmers in the Lower-Forty-Eight.

VIENNA

At Vienna, Austria - a gathering of some twenty-four hundred psychoanalysts - from twenty-three different countries; opening the Twenty-Seventh International Psychoanalytical Congress; which is honoring this year - in his native city - the late great Sigmund Freud.

Officials stressing, however - it's not all fun and games. Adding that delegates will attempt to form "unified theories" - on the cause-and-effect relationship in crimes of human violence; which may be difficult - inasmuch as many present are still openly hostile to Freud's teachings.

Incidentally, a Congress spokesman also admitting - there are no Soviet delegates present; because - said he - "there is no such things as psychoanalysis in Russia".

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.