

REACTION

L.T. - Older. Thurs. Jan. 11th. '62.

The reaction in Congress to President Kennedy's state of the Union message - is partisan. For and against - along political lines. ~~I don't have to tell you that the Democrats are for, and the Republicans against.~~

Vice President Johnson ^{naturally speaks of} ~~began the comments by~~ referring to - "bold and dedicated leadership". Senator Mansfield of Montana uses the phrase "authentic earmark of greatness." Humphrey of Minnesota - "a prescription for strength and responsibility."

On the other side of the aisle - some sour notes. Dirksen of Illinois, terming the Kennedy program - "like a Sears Roebuck catalogue, with the old prices marked up."

The biggest Republican objection is to the President's request for authority to cut income taxes. Mr. Kennedy wants this power as an anti-recession measure. Senator Dirksen considers the idea - an encroachment on the rights of Congress. A sentiment that is being ~~repeated~~ echoed by many of his colleagues. ~~In the G.O.P.~~

KENNEDY

The scene on Capitol Hill today - was dramatic, *as*
It always is - when the President delivers his State of the
Union message. Every seat on the floor of the House, and
in the gallery - ~~was occupied today. Dozens of standees.~~
The assembled lawmakers and guests - ~~rising as the President~~
~~entered.~~ Giving him a loud ovation, as he ~~shook hands~~ and
then strode to the lectern to tell ^{*us how we*} ~~the American people how~~
~~they~~ stand, at home and abroad.

In a way this reception ^{*was*} something special. ^{*For*} ~~After all,~~
John Kennedy was once a member of Congress - and ~~he~~ has many
friends in the legislature. So there was a touch of home-
coming about it. The applause, more personal - than political.
Everybody clapping enthusiastically - even those who say they
intend to vote against key measures of the administration.

SPEECH FOLLOW KENNEDY

What about - those measures? And what is - the state
of the union?

President Kennedy was moderately optimistic. ~~in his~~
~~answers to those questions. His optimism tempered by~~
~~realism.~~ He pointed out that the cold war ^{will} ~~would~~ be with us -
for a long time to come. Hence his program for increasing our
national strength at every level - military, political,
economic.

The focus of the world problem - Berlin. The
President admitted today - that he doesn't know Khrushchev's
intentions. But he does know that we must continue to
negotiate - in the hope that the boss of the Kremlin will
allow a genuine settlement. Meanwhile, our policy is to stand
firm in Berlin - and to let Khrushchev know that he cannot
push us out.

As for economic power, President Kennedy noted - that
we are still setting new records for production. Which is

one reason for the President's confidence - about our meeting the Soviet ~~and~~ challenge successfully.

As expected, the President is supporting the sale of U N bonds - in the United States ^{and supporting} ~~and~~ the U N - in the Congo. He is also backing lower tariffs - so that we can trade with the European common market. He wants to see tax credits - for American firms trading abroad. And - ~~this is~~ one of the most controversial items:- he's asking Congress to give him authority to lower income taxes, as an anti-recession measure.

The President stands where he stood on school aid, and medical care for the aged. At the same time, he intends to speed up federal construction projects - to stimulate the economy.

This state of the union message adds up to - the moral that President Kennedy has been preaching. We have a hard road ahead - and the resources to travel it in peace and freedom.

AVALANCHE

That Andean avalanche that overwhelmed six villages in Peru - came roaring down from the highest mountain peak in the country. Mount Huascarán, one of the giants of the cordillera - twenty two thousand feet of extinct volcano. Long a challenge to ~~mountaineers~~ mountaineers. So steep - it sends countless tons of ice, snow, mud and rock hurtling into the valleys. Many times in the past - Mount Huascarán has obliterated communities at its base. This time with an avalanche forty feet high, and half-a-mile wide. People below, oblivious to the danger - except for a doctor returning from a sick call. He stepped on the gas - to give the alarm. But - too late. By the time he got there the avalanche had descended and villages disappeared before his eyes. Around three thousand villagers - buried under a mountain of debris. Tonight rescue workers - are digging frantically, trying to reach - any possible survivors.

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Those of us who live in the mid-west - can take heart. That is if we can believe the weatherman. He says: - relief on the way. A warm spell, due to move in. Break up the icy paralysis that has lasted longer - than during any previous winter, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

The weather is still taking a roll - on both sides of the Atlantic; and in even - old Mexico. Today an icy wind from the North - the dreaded "norther" howled through the state of Vera Cruz, heading toward Yucatan - which usually has tropical temperatures. The "norther" freezing four victims in Vera Cruz - killing two others by blowing them head over heels.

Over in Britain - high winds; up to a hundred miles an hour. In the Channel, waves - fifteen feet high. Ships, putting into nearest ports. One British freighter didn't make it - and has capsized. Both sides of the Channel coast - battered. Even ski

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resorts are reported ~~MM~~ closing down - in Switzerland,
Italy and Austria.

A winter to remember - in Europe and America.

PLANE

The story from Torrejon, Spain - is another commentary on speed in the Twentieth Century. Last night, I told about our Air Force jet - taking off from Okinawa, in the Far Pacific. Since then, the plane has covered - twelve thousand miles, non-stop. They made it. Major Clyde Evely of Petersburg, Virginia - zooming across the Pacific, and across the United States, and across the Atlantic. On to their destination an air field near Madrid. Triumphant success - for "Operation Persian Rug." All because of what Jackie

were. The most important record of the eleven they set - twelve thousand miles without refueling. And the Air Force says that they could have flown on beyond Spain, on to Africa, another important flight in the history of aviation - Operation Persian Rug.

And now, Dick - I'll let you pull the rug out from under me.

HATS

In London, a spokesman for the millinery institut~~e~~ said today "Mrs. Kennedy is the best thing that's happened to us in a long time." So - what did the First Lady from Washington do for the British clothing industry? She started - a stampede for hats. The women of Britain, apparently bowled over - by the hats they saw on Jackie's head.

Result - a rush for women's hats, an increase in business of almost ten percent. A jump of some two million pounds sterling. All because of what Jackie wore when she was in London, with the President.