

LOWELL THOMAS
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WHITE HOUSE

After a day of rather intensive campaigning--President Johnson dropped a bombshell today at the White House by announcing for the first time--that he has just invited the new leaders of the Soviet Union to come to the United States. The Presidential invitation through Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko when they met early this week.

The President conceding that relations between Washington and Moscow have cooled of late--because of Viet Nam. Adding, however, that Russian "leadership"--would be more than welcome in this country. As for the future of American and Soviet relations--the President asserting: "I'm an optimist. I see no reason for the American people--to fear the Russian people."

The President's remarks were following his return from New York by way of Delaware, where he warned the voters of impending danger--if the Republicans should regain control of Congress in the coming elections. "We could falter--and fall back--and fail"--said the President.

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Incidentally, his reception so enthusiastic--that his car was mobbed as he tried to leave for the Wilmington airport. The President at last pleading with the crowd --"please, let me go." Which--they finally did.

For a time--U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara hovered nearby in a helicopter, as close as could see the flash of fire and the craters left by the bombs.

Beyond the no man's land--additional American jets were pounding the Communist North, along a two hundred-mile front, from Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu. The U.S. warplanes destroyed four missile sites--blowing up a number of air storage units--and demolishing a vast underground storage area.

Later, Sec. McNamara returning to Saigon--en route home--told newsmen that the war is going well--even better than expected. In addition, assuring American troops that the standard tour of duty in Viet Nam--will remain at twelve months and no longer--despite rumors to the contrary.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam--big American B-Fifty-Twos and smaller jet fighters struck repeatedly today at that pseudo demilitarized zone--between North and South. The U.S. heavy cruiser St. Paul--adding to the barrage from its position offshore.

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WASHINGTON FOLLOW VIET NAM

Here at home -- the House today passed a controversial bill; making it a crime -- for Americans to send aid to North Viet Nam; or to attempt in any way -- to stop troop trains in the United States.

Passage -- after heated debate -- by a margin at Two Hundred and Seventy-Five to Sixty-Four. However, the bill now goes to the Senate -- where it faces almost certain death.

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The U.S. Embassy urging Russian officials -- that "in view of the relatively minor nature of the case -- it should be quickly concluded and the young men sent on their way home." But so far -- no reply.

LENINGRAD

^{young} Two former American Army officers ^{are being} held tonight in a Russian jail, where they've languished now for two weeks -- on suspicion of "aggravated theft."

The two men -- Buel Wortham, ~~Twenty-Five~~, of North Little Rock, Arkansas -- and Craddock Gilmour, ~~Twenty-Four~~, of Salt Lake City. Celebrating their discharge from the Army -- by means of an auto tour through the Soviet Union, ~~when~~ they allegedly filched an antique bear from a Leningrad hotel -- attempting to carry it home.

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CONGRESS

In the Senate itself--speedy approval today of a so-called "Christmas Tree" package..A bill that started out--as a measure to benefit foreign investors; but ended up--with more than forty riders, such as one to provide election-gear benefits--for doctors, lawyers, the elderly, and a host of others, including even needy Presidential candidates. One major amendment providing that taxpayers--may elect to allocate a dollar apiece from their income tax returns, to be applied as a Federally-controlled-Presidential-election-campaign-fund. The bill as presently written--permitting major parties to draw on the fund, up to a maximum of thirty-five million each --that is in the nineteen-sixty-eight Presidential campaign.

Just one catch. The bill now goes to a House-Senate Conference Committee--where many of its provisions are expected to end up on the cutting room floor.

MADRID

American and Soviet space scientists ^{were} ~~are~~ in conflicting orbit today; perhaps ^{even} on a collision course ~~is~~ at that continuing Astronautical Congress in Madrid.

The Russians -- for their part -- withdrawing five important papers; originally scheduled for presentation -- to the Congress. At the same time, [?] Russians accusing American's present -- of trying to commercialize outer space. This supposedly through an endless supply -- of free drinks, advertising pencils ^{by}, cigaret lighters, photographs and press releases; [?] that American companies are offering delegates and journalists -- attending the conference.

The U.S. -- in turn -- withdrawing three scheduled papers, [?] by order of the Office of Munitions Control -- at the Pentagon. At the same time, telling the Russians they're free to launch their own information campaign -- anytime they do desire.

WEISBADEN FOLLOW MADRID

Here's a later report. The U.S. Air Force today canceling a paper -- on the Palomares missing nuclear bomb incident; scheduled for presentation to an international medical-surgical conference -- currently in session at Weisbaden, Germany.

The paper entitled -- "Medical Aspects of the Palomares Incident." Withdrawn -- said the Air Force -- because "certain sections of it were classified information."

Nineteen-fifty -- that cancer could be induced by a virus. A discovery -- that led to today's award.

Dr. Higgins -- a Sixty-five-year-old specialist in chemotherapy, who discovered that treatment with chemicals -- could regress in certain types of tumors.

STOCKHOLM

Two American cancer experts -- who have devoted their lives to fighting the dread disease ^{were} ~~is~~ today named joint winners of the Nineteen-Sixty-Six Nobel Prize for Medicine. Dr. Francis Rous -- of the Rockefeller Institute in New York City; and Dr. Charles Huggins -- of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Rous -- at Eighty-Seven -- one of the oldest ever to receive a Nobel Prize. ^{He's} ~~The~~ man who discovered as early as Nineteen-Eleven -- that cancer could be induced by a virus. A discovery -- that led to today's award.

Dr. Huggins -- a Sixty-Five-year-old specialist in chemotherapy; ^{and hormones} ~~who~~ discovered that treatment with chemicals ₁ -- can cause regression in certain types of tumors.

MONTREAL

The movie--"How to Steal a Million"--playing at a theater not far away; a band of thieves in Montreal--today showed exactly how it's done in real-life.

The theft--from a postal building at Montreal's Dorval International Airport. The gang cutting through a heavy mesh screen--seizing fifteen mail bags--and driving off in a waiting truck. The whole operation so silent, so smooth--that nobody discovered the crime until an hour later.

The take--according to Quebec Provincial Police: Just about a cool million.

COLUMBUS-DAYTON

A giant "un-beauty" contest is currently underway in Ohio. Medical researchers from Ohio State University--scouring the cities of Columbus and Dayton; in hopes of finding exactly a thousand--of the worst physical specimens of American manhood.

Chief talent scout--Ohio State physiology specialist Dr. Donald Matthews, who says that potential applicants must be fat, paunchy, listless, middle-aged men--who smoke at least twenty cigarettes a day--who are generally dissipated and run-down. In other words--each a top candidate for a heart attack.

Purpose--said Dr. Matthews--to study the men over a period of from Five-to-Fifteen years. Along the way--if possible--inducing half of them to reform; by losing weight--by exercising--by cutting out those cigarettes: to see what effect, if any--it will have on their overall mortality rate.

Dr. Matthews calling the project--"one of the greatest ever undertaken" in the field of heart research. The cost, a Half-Million Bucks--provided by the National Institute of Health.

SAN FRANCISCO FOLLOW COLUMBUS-DAYTON

~~Associated item~~ -- from San Francisco: -- ~~Famed~~ heart surgeon
Dr. Michael De Bakey of Houston -- principal speaker today at the
annual convention of the American College of Surgeons, ^{was} telling
of the amazing progress in development of artificial arteries--
for victims of circulatory disease.

Dr. De Bakey declaring that "Dacron is by far the best
material -- yet used for artificial arteries." "It simulates
the artery it replaces so well" -- said he -- "that it sometimes
even develops atheroma."

This a symptom -- commonly associated with hardening of
the arteries. Or in this case -- hardening of the Dacron.

COLORADO SPRINGS

From Colorado Springs, Colorado--a story today that perhaps best fall under the heading of--"judicial backlash." Justice Otto Moore of the Colorado Supreme Court--blasting certain of his colleagues on the bench, for alleged over-exuberance--in the application of recent rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Moore taking particular exception--to an incident that occurred in Cleveland early this week; when a news photographer was threatened with contempt--if he refused to surrender a picture he had taken of two other newsmen. This in connection--with the upcoming Sheppard trial.

Justice Moor saying he didn't see how the picture--"could have anything at all to do" with prejudicing a jury. Further asserting the photographer should have kept the film--and fought the case in court.

Justice Moore adding--"there are ten thousand judges in this country." And unfortunately--said he--"some of them are blankety-blank fools."