

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

Salt Lake City, Utah

PITTSFIELD

First, a salute to all my friends - at Station W-B-R-K in Pittsfield, Mass. The "Voice of the Berkshires", - where I often do this broadcast. W-B-R-K today celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary on the air. And now - a look at the news from the mountains of Utah where I've been skiing with three sugar skiers, Hack Miller, Alf Engen and Stein Erikson.

COLUMBIA

For President Nixon - a warm and emotional welcome today at Columbia, South Carolina. It all started at the airport with a sign reading "Welcome, Mr. President," and the wife of a prisoner of war presenting him with a plaque for his quote "deep concern." In response, the president saying: "The prisoners - they are brave men;" but it's "their wives and mothers - who really kept the faith." And then - as he shook hands with spectators there were cries of "We love you, we love you." Something new for Mr. Nixon.

Enroute to the state capital - more of the same. The President there thanked the South Carolina legislature - for backing his policy in Viet Nam. Also adding that "chances of building a peace that will last - are better now than they ^{have} ever been since World War Two." He also said: "This is one country - let us all work now for one country."

KISSINGER

The President returned to Washington - arriving just ahead of Henry Kissinger. Both heading straight for the White House. Dr. Kissinger reporting personally on the results of his two-week trip to North Vietnam, Red China and Japan.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House announced today that President Nixon will again address the nation by radio at noon tomorrow. This to be the second in a series of broadcasts - preceding the delivery of special messages to Congress. The President's subject is expected to be the State of the Nation's Economy; and most likely will include proposals for the new trade legislation he spoke about last week.

VIEN TIANE

From Laos - a report today that the two sides in that war torn land - have finally agreed to a cease-fire. The formal signing - said to be set for later tonight. Terms - as yet undisclosed. Except that the U.S. is pledging to stop its bombing in Laos - as soon as the cease fire goes into effect.

Here at home - the State Department was asked whether this would speed the release of American prisoners - currently held in Laos. A spokesman saying: "We certainly hope so."

HONOLULU

Meanwhile, the latest group of returned prisoners - was stopping briefly in Honolulu en route home. One of the freed men - Lieutenant Commander Fred Purrington of North Dartmouth, Mass. - was sought out by an attractive young blond; who - when she finally found him - gave him a big soul kiss.

The young lady explaining she had read in the newspapers - that the first thing Commander Purrington wanted to do was to kiss a blonde. Adding she wanted to see to it - that he got his wish. So - she did it - with a flourish!

LONDON

The price of gold on the London bullion market - again today soared to new heights; ending up at seventy-six fifty an ounce - for a total gain of seven-and-a-half bucks since the devaluation of the U.S. dollar. One dealer saying: "Demand has come mainly from continental gold hoarders - who are convinced another currency upheaval is on the way." Which may - or may not - be true. The dollar generally was gaining strength today - in European trading.

MOSCOW

From Moscow - comes an announcement today that the Soviet Union plans to publish soon a new twelve volume history of World War Two. This according to Lieutenant General Pavel Zhilin the head of the Soviet Institute for Military History; who further charged that up to now "the truth about the war and the Soviet role in it - has been distorted in the West." Perhaps inadvertently though, General Zhilin did suggest that the new Soviet history - may also be taken with a grain of salt. It will deal with events of the war - said he - as viewed from, quote - "a scientific Marxist interpretation," whatever that is.

I wonder how much credit they'll give to Uncle Sam for the stream of supplies we poured into Russia via Persia and without which they undoubtedly would have lost their war.

HELGAFFJELL VOLCANO

*Helgaffjell Volcano on the Island off the coast of Iceland
- was at it again today. This time the whole left side of the
crater - collapsed after more than a month of steady
erruptions; thereby sending an additional torrent of molten
lava - streaming down on the nearby town of Vestmanaeyjar.*

*At last report, the lava completely filling a small
valley - earlier thought to be some protection for the city.
It had also swept aside - hastily constructed earthern works;
swallowing up several more houses and a bulldozer. Officials
now fear the entire town will be buried - like Pompei
and Herculaneum.*

CAPE KENNEDY

The men of Apollo Seventeen today returned to Cape Kennedy to thank the launch crews who sent them on their way to the moon last in December.

Astronaut Geologist Jack Schmitt - taking a peek into the future, foresees the day, soon when "Man will be heading for Mars." Astronaut Schmitt adds that once he might have been "accused of talking science fiction" - but not any more. Why? "Because" - said he - "there is no longer science fiction - only science prediction."

SUPREME COURT

An appeal from the convicted assassin of senator Robert Kennedy - was turned down by the Supreme Court today, without comment. Sirhan B. Sirhan - thus remaining under a life sentence.

The Supreme Court also turned down an attempt by consumer advocate Ralph Nader - to prevent a merger between the Hartford Fire Insurance Company and giant I T and T. The high court thereby confirming a lower court ruling - that only the federal government can bring an anti-trust action.

In still another case - the supreme court declaring an Alabama anti-bussing law unconstitutional. Also, ruling that the city of Memphis must launch a massive bussing program - with no more delay.

SAFETY

Washington again = an attempt today at better bus safety. The national highway traffic & safety administration - setting forth a proposal calling for tough new standards. These including mandatory seat belts - on all busses; not only school busses - but also local and long distance busses.

The safety administration also calling for installation of new style seats // on busses built after September One, nineteen seventy-four; seats "stronger, higher, and safer - than those presently in use." Safety administrator

Douglas Toms saying: "There have been too many serious and fatal bus accidents in recent years - and many have been marked by ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~progressive~~

failure of seats."

CHEHALIS

The story of a remarkable rescue - and a remarkable dog - comes today from rural Chehalis, Washington.

Mrs. Josephine Julian - aged twenty - taking out the garbage to a shed at the rear of her home. Suddenly falling through the floor - into an old abandoned dry well, some fifty feet deep. Still conscious - she called for help. Her four year old daughter, Teresa, and the family's German Shepard Baron came to see what was wrong.

"Get help" - said Mrs. Julian. Teresa obediently setting off down the road - but every time she stepped on the pavement, Baron knocked her down. A passing motorist finally taking note of the dog's action - stopping to see what was wrong. Teresa crying: "Mommy needs help."

And so - a happy ending. Sherrif's deputies - quickly rescuing the stranded woman. She was cut and bruised - also leg fractures; but thanks to Baron and Teresa - she'll be okay.

DARWIN

Here's one - a new look at the so-called "Top End" Down Under. Author Kenneth MacLeish - discusses current life in the northern part of Australia's Northern Territory. He notes how its capital city - Darwin - where I have been a number of time - Darwin has the lowest death rate in all of Australia - highest rate of illegitimacy - and highest per capita beer consumption. Adding that the surrounding country side - is inhabited mainly by buffalo hunters, cattle men and miners. One and all searching for - and sometime finding - the "Pot O' Gold at the end of the rainbow."

Author MacLeish summing it all up - observing that Australia's "Top End" is "wet or dry, beautiful or desolate, rich or ruinous." In short - said he - "an all or nothing sort of country."