

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A comparative lull settled this Thanksgiving Day over much of Viet Nam. With the result that many more American troops than expected - were able to enjoy their turkey.

But not all. Fighting men of the U S First Infantry - slogging through the jungles of Zone D - where there were some casualties - Thanksgiving or not.

SCHLESINGER

First publication tonight - of the final installment of "a thousand days". A book on the Late President Kennedy -- by his friend and adviser, Arthur Schlesinger, Junior. And in it - a statement almost certain to stir a controversy.

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Schlesinger writing that shortly before ~~his~~ his death - President Kennedy had come to the conclusion that Viet Nam - "was his ~~fox~~ great failure in foreign policy." A fact driven home - says Schlesinger - by the overthrow of the Roman Catholic Diem regime.

The President "somber and shaken" recalls Schlesinger, As depressed by Viet Nam - as he was by the Bay of Pigs. Perhaps fully aware for the first ~~time~~ time - says Schlesinger - that Viet Nam was his great failure - because ^{he figured he} ~~had~~ had never really given it his full attention."

CONGO

Another political upheaval today - in the Congo. Army Chief General Joseph Mobutu - early strong man of the Congolese Republic - seizing power once again. Ousting the government of President Joseph Kasavubu - in a bloodless coup that brought Africans into the streets dancing with joy.

Mobutu immediately cancelling a Presidential election - scheduled for February, and declaring himself President as of now - and for the next five years. With his Chief Aide - Colonel Leonard Mulamba - to serve as Premier. The Congolese Parliament told to ratify his orders - or ~~not~~ else.

Such drastic action necessary- said Mobutu - because of the complete failure of Congolese politicians - to restore peace. Also the threat of "another civil war" - similar to the Communist inspired rebellion of last year.

Mobutu asserting the ambitions of various people - or, as he put it, "it was the race for the top - that plunged us into permanent political crisis." But, that race is now finished - said he.

Wild disorder today - in the Rhodesian Parliament at Salisbury, ~~When~~ an opposition Deputy called Premier Smith's seizure of independence - "an act of rebellion" - against Britain.

^A Dr. Ahrn Palley - the only white man on the opposition bench - promptly ejected forcibly from the chamber, ~~And~~ barred from returning - for seven days. Nine other members - blacks all - thereupon staging a sympathy walkout.

When quiet had returned - a speech by Justice Minister Desmond Lardner-Burke, ~~In~~ which he said that hundreds of terrorists - trained and armed by Communist nations - are poised to infiltrate Rhodesia.

Said he: - "Rhodesia" ~~he concluded~~ - is now the fulcrum - upon which the defense of western democracy is at stake."

IKE

For former President Eisenhower - another typical holiday feast today - sharing a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner - with friends and family. Hospital fare - to be sure. At the Walter Read Medical Center - in Washington. But a far cry from those bleak days - immediately following his recent heart ailment.

Indeed, President Ike was "smiling - and in his usual good spirits" today. Continuing to make satisfactory progress in his convalescence - according to doctors, with every likelihood - that he will be at home on the farm, at Gettysburg, for Christmas.

PRESIDENT

A couple of unexpected but welcome guests today - at the Texas White House. Luci Baines Johnson - who had been ill in Washington - sufficiently recovered to come on down. Along with her "steady" - Pat Nugent. The young couple joining family, friends and staff - for a Texas-sized Thanksgiving dinner.

A sort of farewell weekend - for Luci and Pat. The young man to enter military service - this Sunday.

KENNEDY

Some harsh words today - from touring U S
Senator Bobby Kennedy. In vigorous give-and-take with
Brazilian students - at Rio De Janeiro's Catholic University.

Senator Kennedy met with repeated criticism -
of American policies toward Latin America. To which he
replied that the students would do well to complain less -
and worry more about their fellow countrymen. Those in
the Rio slums, for example - most desperately in need of
help.

The Senator noting that "if all we do is complain,
criticize, carry signs, make speeches - and then leave to
take a job with United Fruit - and not pay attention to
those who need our help - then we have not met our
responsibility!". ^{Outspoken} ~~Senator~~ Bobby Kennedy.

RIO FOLLOW KENNEDY

Also in Rio - an attempt today by Colombia - to slip a resolution through the continuing Inter-American Foreign Ministers Meeting there. A resolution ostensibly reaffirming the principle of non-intervention - in the internal affairs of Inter-American nations, but also containing a strong indictment - of American conduct in the Dominican Republic.

U S reaction - perhaps best described as "cold", a delegate from Chile - branding the resolution as "inopportune and dangerous".

The resolution tabled.

KEOKUK

The death toll in that National Guard Armory explosion last night at Keokuk, Iowa - went up today.

At least seven dead - at last report, with forty-seven others injured - including at least twenty in critical condition.

A gala Thanksgiving Eve square dance in progress - when the armory building was torn by the blast. One wall blown completely out - most of the roof collapsing among the dancers on the crowded floor. Many fleeing the hall - with their clothes in flames.

According to firemen - the explosion apparently caused by an accumulation of "natural gas". A gas furnace in the basement - about the only thing left standing.

DRINK

From Omaha, Nebraska - the story today of a young man arraigned in traffic court - on a charge of drunken driving, quickly found guilty - and given his choice of sentence. The Judge decreeing that the defendant either give up his driver's license for six months, agree not to take a drink for two years not even go into a tavern.

A moment of hesitation - and the defendant made his choice - deciding to give up his driver's license - for the specified six months. Warren - would you call that a wise choice?

MUSICIAN

Here's a switch-reported from London. A young American musician - with a trace of beatlemania - denied entry today into Britain.

Twenty year old Don Trinkle - formerly of Chicago - described as a beatnik drummer with curls down to his shoulders. Told to go home - said a government spokesman - because "he wanted to stay in Britain indefinitely and work." He failed to qualify - for a work permit. The British not wanting a Yankee Ringo.