

February 14, 1972
Allen Jackson

WHITE HOUSE

From the White House - a firm commitment today to put an end to massive busing - as a means of achieving racial balance in the nation's schools. The President named a Cabinet-level committee - to determine ways and means of fulfilling said commitment. This followed a meeting with a group of Congressional leaders - urging a Constitutional amendment to outlaw busing.

The White House stressed, however: "The President has made no decision at this time - as to which way to proceed;" although he expects "to have recommendations available to him - after his return from his trip to China." A spokesman added that court-ordered busing - is believed to have reached "such a magnitude" that it is now "counterproductive." Further saying: "We are not going to leave the situation - as it is."

EXPORTS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

In advance of that China trip - President Nixon today eased some of the remaining restrictions on U.S. exports to Red China. Thereby giving China equal trade status with Russia. The new rules permitting American businessmen to sell to the Chinese, as they do to the Russians - such things as locomotives, construction equipment, industrial chemicals, internal combustion engines, rolling mills and so on.

Today's action - came just three days before the President's scheduled departure for Peking. The White House expressed hope that Chinese leaders - will "welcome this additional step forward in opening up additional channels to trade."

VIETNAM

On the other side of the globe - in Vietnam - air action today included some of the heaviest U.S. bombing raids of the entire war. And then - the start of a Tet cease-fire. According to the U.S. Command, in the first six hours, at least - the Communists fired not a single shot at American troops.

At midnight - a lunar New Year's message from South Vietnam's President Thieu. In a nationwide broadcast - Thieu said: "Like you, my dear countrymen - I have no other hope than to bring peace to the country; so that one day, no soldier will have to make sacrifices - and there will be no more war widows, war orphans and destruction."

That - from President Thieu.

DACCA

Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - a visitor today at Dacca University in the new state of Bangladesh. There he told an estimated ten thousand students: "The people of America were behind you in recent months - and the leaders of America will not be far behind." Kennedy contending that "the struggle of Bangladesh - has touched the conscience of America."

Then a quick trip to nearby Khustia - where he viewed the whitened skeletons of Bengali martyrs; after which - a meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Kennedy later said - he is "a great admirer" of the Sheikh. Also saying: "The future of this country - although it is facing many problems - is in excellent hands; its greatest days are yet to come." And he added: "I think that recognition" - by the U.S - "is long overdue."

LONDON

In Britain today - you might say - it was better to light one little candle - than to curse the darkness; but a lot of people - were doing both. In the second week of a nationwide coal strike emergency - a series of growing power blackouts. The British thus turning to candles, in many cases - as their sole means of illumination. Indeed, the British press calling today - "Black Monday;" further predicting that millions of workers - will have been laid off by mid-week.

Britain's Home Secretary - Reginald Maudling - addressed the House of Commons. Appealing to striking miners - to lift their blockade of power stations; also, urging immediate acceptance - of an offered twelve per cent pay increase. But the Secretary's speech - was interrupted by Labor members of Parliament. As he sat down - they shouted "shame" and "resign." And a vote of confidence - maybe soon to come.

**SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINES"**

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas.

Subject tonight: The Aborigines of Australia. Lowell...

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

Have you read or heard about the aborigines in Australia, at least a few of them, demonstrating, smashing offices, throwing rocks through windows and so in Australian cities? There is no doubt but what the white man has given the aborigine a rough time in Australia, for the most part. But there are Australians who feel that the abo, in his own way, is a remarkable human being, and wish it were possible for them to have their own domain, live their own lives, only have casual contacts with the white man.

We don't know how closely the Australian aborigine is related to the aborigine in New Guinea, a thousand or two thousand miles to the north of the continent "Down Under". At the United Nations they have been talking about the possibility of New Guinea becoming an independent nation. I was talking to Bob Trumbell, famous New York Times correspondent who now makes his headquarters in Australia.

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He was pointing out that in the so-called Australia half or eastern end of vast New Guinea, in only half the island, the people speak some seven hundred different languages.

**SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINES"**

Thank you, Lowell.

A final note - in a moment.

DEL RIO, TEXAS

Near Del Rio, Texas, Frenchman Michel Siffre descended into a limestone cave in West Texas today and began a six-month hibernation from the world in the interest of science.

The thirty-three-year-old speleologist hopes to prove that after "a period beyond time" - divorced from watches, clocks, daylight and all other clues to the passage of time - man adapts naturally to a forty-eight-hour lifestyle. This pattern of twelve hours of sleep and thirty-six hours wakefulness, Siffre believes, could benefit Astronauts and the crews of nuclear submarine and long-range aircraft.

Siffre will live out his lone exile, planned to last about two-hundred days, inside Midnight Cave, a warm, dry cavern some fifty miles from the Rio Grande Border with Mexico.

MOSCOW

On the space front - the Soviet Union launched another unmanned lunar probe. The Russians' Luna-Twenty - their first moon mission in five months; according to Moscow - scheduled to make a soft landing on the lunar surface; with estimated time of arrival - sometime Saturday. Western experts think that Luna-Twenty may be carrying - a new Lunokhod explorer robot; or failing that - perhaps a sophisticated soil-scopping device. In any event, all ^{systems,} ~~systems,~~ at last report - "functioning normally."

GULF

At Galveston, Texas - the start of an official inquiry into the sinking of the jumbo tanker V.A. Fogg. At the same time - a report the ship was torn apart by a terrific explosion; and its crew of thirty-nine - apparently killed instantly. The proof - we are told - in the fact the ^{Sunken} ship's forward deck - "is bent to the right at a forty-five degree angle." This said to indicate - "one heck of an explosion."

DALLAS

Valentine's Day, Nineteen-Seventy-Two - the signal for a flood of personal ads today in a Dallas newspaper. Some of them, most unusual, to say the least - for example, one message addressed to, quote, "Shannon" - saying: "Roses are red, violets are green - you'll always be my Valentine's Queen." Signed - "Lover Boy." Another message saying: "Joe, I love you flip, I love you flop - I love you better than hogs love slop. Kitty."

But perhaps the most moving message of all - one that said: "Cathy, I love you, I want you, I must have you - but if I can't, I'll take a motorcycle or a jeep instead. Love, Tom."

Now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.