

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Another scandal brewing tonight on the banks of the Potomac. Three former Pentagon officials charged with embezzling some 66,000 dollars in defense funds -- ten thousand of it earmarked for use in South Viet Nam.

One of the accused -- James Loftis Junior -- a former administrative assistant to Secretary of Defense McNamara. The other two -- William Godel -- assigned to advance research -- and John Wylie -- assigned to budget and finance.

According to government attorneys -- the alleged embezzlements covered a three-year period beginning in 1960. The three men said to have submitted false receipts -- to cover bogus military expenditures.

All resigned -- or removed from office -- by last fall. The fraud discovered at that time by special auditing procedures instituted by Secretary McNamara -- when he first took office.

KENNEDY

Young Ted Kennedy - rated by some as the Kennedy most likely to follow in his late brother's footsteps - did just that today.

Ten years ago this month - the late John F. Kennedy left a Boston hospital after successful treatment of a back ailment. Today it was Ted - who holds his brother's old job in the Senate - walking out of the hospital after months of hospitalization for a broken back.

But there, for now - the parallel ends. While regaining his strength, John F. Kennedy wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Profiles in Courage" - and went on to become our thirty-fifth President. The younger Kennedy saying he has only two immediate goals - rest and relaxation. I hope he gets a little skiing before long. Like his brother Bobby is an ardent ski enthusiast, both regulars at Stowe, Vermont and Aspen, Colorado - two of my favorites.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes to the White House. The President and Mrs. Johnson starting their Christmas celebrations - a little early this year. This afternoon - a Christmas party for underprivileged children of the nation's capital. And only a few minutes ago - an advance "Christmas package" of eighty-two million dollars. President Johnson disclosing the second major allocation of Federal funds - in what he calls the war on poverty - for adult education - and other self-help projects.

CONNOR

Meanwhile, there's another new face in the President's Cabinet. Luther Hodges resigning as Secretary of Commerce - John T. Connor taking his place.

The 59 year-old Connor-once a Marine, and later a special assistant to the Secretary of Navy. More recently - president of Merck, the big pharmaceutical house. Perhaps most important - co-chairman of the National Independent Committee for Johnson and Humphrey in the last campaign. President Johnson calling him "the kind of man I want" - smart, loyal and patriotic.

CONGO

News from the Congo tonight -- all bad.

The government offensive bogged down amid stiffening rebel resistance -- and more than five hundred whites held captive behind rebel lines. The hostages including ~~about~~ two-hundred-fifty Catholic missionaries -- about half of them Nuns -- many already feared dead. ~~slain~~ The Communist-backed rebels threatening to retake the city of Paulis -- captured by government troops only last week.

Trouble in the Congo further reflected -- in Moscow ^{where} ~~The~~ Soviet Union expelling ^{ed} the Congolese chargé d'affaires and his chauffeur -- the Kremlin retaliating for what it called the open hostility -- of Congolese Premier Moïse Tshombé.

DUKE

Doctors in Dallas have removed an aneurysm -

the size of an orange - from the Duke of Windsor's abdomen.

The aneurysm caused by a weak spot in the main artery from

the heart - swelling out like a balloon. Doctors removing

the weakened section of blood vessel - then patching the

ends of the artery together again with a four-inch piece

of dacron. The operation a success. The prognosis - complete

recovery.

TREASURE

Now - back a bit in history, to the year Seventeen-fifteen. Eleven Spanish galleons--laden with treasure from the New World--struck by a hurricane off the coast of Florida. All but one sunk -- or dived aground. All that treasure lost--nearly two-hundred-and=fifty years ago.

Thanks to young Kip Wagner--a portion of the lost treasure was placed on display today at the National Geographic building in Washington.

Kip Wagner--a one-time building contractor--telling reporters that he was bitten by the treasure-hunting bug nearly a decade ago, and after years of search--
of
finally finding one^{of} the treasure-laden galleons -- of Cape Kennedy.

Cost of the treasure hunt--more than a quarter of a million dollars. But, well worth it. The find including ancient pieces-of-eight, Spanish doubloons, pancake-shaped silver ingots, and gold coins--from the fabled mines of

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Spanish America.

The focal piece of the exhibit--a beautiful gold chain, perfectly preserved--more than eleven feet long--and made up of more than two-thousand gold links. And hanging from the end of it -- a golden dragon with a toothpick in his belly and a harpoon in his tail.

A priceless relic, but just a tiny part--of the greatest treasure find in recent history.

STRIPPER

From Fort Worth, Texas -- where some Texans say the West begins -- Stripper Tammi True offered to bare her -- soul -- in the cause of justice. Tammi a stripper -- in a Fort Worth coffee house called - "The Cellar." Fourteen waitresses in "The Cellar" -- on trial for indecent exposure. The City charging that the uniforms were -- well --. Enter Tammi as a witness for the defense. Tammi testifying that the girls wore much more than she did -- and she hadn't been charged with anything. Tammi then offering to perform her -- ah -- her dance -- so the judge could see for himself.

Asked if she had her costume with her, Tammi smiled sweetly. Offer - refused. Said the judge: "Just the facts, ma'am." Just the Facts, Dick! Case dismissed.

RADIO

You may recall the story ~~xxx~~ that Philadelphia college instructor -- angered last week by a woman playing a loud radio on a Philadelphia bus. The college instructor finally snatching the radio -- and breaking it over the woman's head. Then -- arrested for assault.

Well, there were repercussions from that incident today. The Philadelphia Transportation Company posting signs in all its vehicles -- forbidding the playing of radios -- except with the use of a personal earphone.

So if you happen to be listening to me tonight on a Philadelphia bus -- ~~better watch out~~ The next voice you hear may be that of the bus driver -- saying --
"rows" and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.