

LT. OLDS., FISHER. THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1964

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Johnson at this afternoon's news conference, looked fit and relaxed; never at a loss -- for an answer.

He told about gross national product -- increasing; unemployment -- doing down; and added that business does not need -- higher prices.

About the railroads, he said that negotiations will continue, and that the public interest will and must be served.

Panama Canal? He says he is pushing studies of a possible new seal level canal -- outside of Panama, possibly in Columbia.

He stands behind the statement by Secretary McNamara -- that our missile strength is superior to the Soviets.

South Vietnam? Mr. Johnson feels that our present policy -- is the right one.

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He thinks the Civil Rights Bill -- is vital to the national welfare. Also others -- like the bill to raise salaries for government workers. And -- Medicare.

As for being President, he says he likes it and hopes -- to continue on the job.

RUSK

When an American Secretary of State visits the Far Pacific - a stopover at Formosa is almost mandatory, ^{if only as a} gesture to show Chiang Kai Shek - and the Communist bloc - that we still support Nationalist China against Red China.

But Dean Rusk's visit - ^{appears to be} ~~is~~ no mere formality.

He held three working conferences today - with the Generalissimo. The two ~~statements~~, covering everything from American naval power in the Formosa Strait - to the split between Russia and Red China. Dean Rusk and Chiang Kai Shek, taking a long look at the world picture - which has changed considerably since the last time they met.

KHRUSHCHEV

I wonder if Khrushchev is saying to himself -
"Darned clever, these Chinese." He should find the
words appropriate - in view of Mao Tse-tung's behavior

Is Mao furious - over Khrushchev's attack? Is
the Strongman of Red China stamping around - shouting
epithets at the Boss of the Kremlin?

Not - at all. Like an old expert on Chinese
torture - Mao remains impassive. And delivers ^{only} a
shrewd riposte. Birthday greetings - to Khrushchev.
A telegram beginning - "Dear Comrade". Wishing the
recipient - "good health and long life."

Mild words that are far more insulting - than
Khrushchev's tirade yesterday. Mao, pretending to
congratulate the man - whom he ~~has~~ ^{recently} promised to throw
"on the slag heap of history." Taunting his rival
with compliments - while calling on the Soviet
Communist Party to get rid of Khrushchev.

The matador - and the bull? The angler - and the fish? These figures of speech are being used - by Western Kremlinologists. Meaning - Mao Tse-tung and Nikita Khrushchev.

REFUGEES

The two East Germans who flew to freedom today -- had never piloted a plane before. They slipped aboard a trainer -- at Halle airport. And started fumbling with the instruments -- on the panel. Luckily, they hit -- the right combination. The plane -- took off. The pilots -- kept it headed West toward the Iron Curtain. When they were sure that they were over West Germany -- they held a cockpit conference about how to get back to earth. Then down they came at Minden -- one hundred and fifty miles from their starting-point. Making a perfect landing. Just a pair of do-it-yourself aviators.

DE GAULLE

The substance of ^{Pres.} deGaulle's attitude to ^{wards} the Western alliance - ~~is~~ ^{came out at} in his Paris news conference.

The President of France, telling the French people - that they must have their own nuclear deterrent. And ^{an} independant foreign policy. Because otherwise France would be at the mercy - of a Soviet attack. ~~With~~ no assurance that America could - or would - intervene in time.

That's - the deGaulle argument, ~~his~~ reason for putting so many francs - into atomic weapons.

COLLISION

Anyone who has been in the Zagros Mountains of Iran - will understand that collision on the road between Isphahan and Shiraz. The road runs up and down, and makes hairpin bends - along a series of ledges. Besides - the road is an ancient one. As narrow in places - as in the days of the Iranian caravans. When two cars meet, one often has to pull to aside - while the other squeezes past.

~~Well~~ ^a bus full of passengers - lost its brakes today ^{and} ~~it~~ hurtled down the mountain, for over a mile - with the driver struggling frantically to stop ^{it} ~~the vehicle~~. Suddenly - a truck looming ahead. The truck driver tried ~~desperately~~ to pull out of the way. But - the ledge was too narrow.

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The vehicles crashed ~~in~~ together - head-on. The truck, hurled off the ledge - tumbling hundreds of feet into the valley. The bus - a mass of tangled

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wreckage on the ledge. The toll - more than twenty
dead. Another twenty - injured.

MATT-INFERNO

Non-skiers may be just a bit weary of hearing me refer to my favorite sport. Well, I have one final item for the season, and it's the sort of story that could be of some interest to nearly everyone.

Skiing happens to be just about the most exciting sport in the world, for various reasons: Because it involves mountains in the wintertime, stormy weather, incidents that look dangerous whether they are or not, and so on.

Today is the twenty-fifth Anniversary of one of the most exciting events in the history of skiing.

Back in Nineteen Thirty-Nine, the number one ski personality of that era was the now legendary Hannes Schneider. A New York banker, an ex-New Hampshire orphan boy, Harvey Gibson, ~~an~~ had gotten Hannes Schneider out of a Nazi prison camp, and brought him to North Conway, New Hampshire. The old master was accompanied by his son and daughter, and his

number one racing protege of that day, a nineteen year old lad from St. Anton am Arlberg.

Back in those days there was a thrilling annual race down the highest mountain in New England, Mt. Washington. The route led over a precipice called the Tickerman Headwall. A race called "The Inferno." When racers got to the top of The Headwall they would slow down and then try to negotiate that almost sheer precipice with a series of zig-zag traverses.

But when young Toni Matt sped down the cone and arrived on the top of The Headwall, instead of checking, he went straight^{on}/over! Maybe he hadn't intended to do it that way. But, he afterwards said he was going so fast, he couldn't check. At any rate, he managed to keep his balance. It was the only time anyone ever ran The Headwall straight! In so doing, he cut the previous Inferno record in half. That's something that doesn't happen in racing of any kind. Seconds

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or fractions of seconds are knocked off, but to cut a record in half!!

Twenty-five years ago, on April Sixteenth.

And today, Toni is one of the legends of the ski world. At the moment, as a result of a serious ski accident, he is in a hospital. But, the surgeon says he'll have him out within a week, and next season -- maybe The Inferno again. And now Dick Noel again.