

Monday, August 28, 1974  
Reid Collins

*From Moscow.....*

*From The White House.....*

*From the Nation's Parks.... comes today's news.*

*This is Reid Collins sitting in for Lowell Thomas.*

*Some forty hours after they were launched, two Russian cosmonauts have returned to earth after what most western experts believe must have been a foreshortened flight for reasons unknown.*

*It was widely expected that Soyuz Fifteen would rendezvous and dock with the orbiting space station Salyut Three. Moscow says the men made several approaches and then the mission was ordered ended.*

*Then the word that cosmonauts Gennady Sarafanov and Lev Demin had returned to earth, mission accomplished.*

*If there was trouble, what kind and what impact it might have on plans for next year's joint Soviet-American meeting in space remains unknown.*

WHITE HOUSE

Gerald Ford today held his first news conference - since becoming President. Another step - in the task of placing his own stamp on the Presidency. But the spectre of the man he replaced - again looming large in the proceedings.

First question: Do you agree that the law applies equally to all men - or do you agree with Governor Rockefeller that former President Nixon should have immunity from prosecution; and specifically - would you use your pardon authority, if necessary?

The President, in reply - citing a statement he made immediately following his inauguration; to the effect that he "hoped that our former President, who brought peace to millions - would find it for himself." Further saying: "The expression made by Governor Rockefeller, I think - coincides with the general point of view of the American people." Adding: "I subscribe to that point of view."

The President refusing, however - to be more specific. "There have been no charges made" - said he - "there's been no action by any jury; and until any legal process has been undertaken - I think it's unwise and untimely for me to make any commitment."

Later on, the President also saying he hopes to prevent future Watergates - by being "as candid and forthright" as he possibly could; but he ruled out the possibility of a new code of ethics - to govern his aides. "The code of ethics they follow" - said he - "will be the example I set."

As for the other matters, the President labeling inflation - our Number One domestic problem. Accordingly, pledging to cut Federal spending - by Five-and-a-Half Billion, "at a minimum." But stressing: "Wage and price controls are out, period."

The President appearing calm and self-assured throughout. ~~The questioning, if not gentle at least a~~

## WATERGATE

*Chief Justice Warren Burger today refused to order further delay in the Watergate coverup trial now scheduled to open September Thirtieth.*

*The appeal for delay had come from John Ehrlichman, who had wanted more time to get ready. Ehrlichman has subpoenaed his former boss, Mr. Nixon, to be a defense witness.*

## GUADALAJARA

The father-in-law of Mexico's President Echeverria  
- Eighty-three-year-old  
- was kidnapped today in Guadalajara. J. Guadalupe Zuno  
Hernandez - en route to a business appointment when his  
car was waylaid by four men. The kidnappers later leaving  
two messages - at two different locations. The contents  
- as yet undisclosed. In any event, Echeverria's policy  
up to now - strictly one of "no deals."

## **FEED**

*The European Common Market has agreed to cut its purchases of American livestock feed - by about ten per cent next year. The announcement today - following a meeting between U.S. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz - and Common Market Agriculture Commissioner Pierre Lardinois. It also follows a Japanese pledge - to make a similar cutback. Butz praising our trading partners for agreeing to "share with us and the rest of the world" - the impact of crop losses caused by drought.*

## LONDON

*In the latest issue of Jane's Fighting Ships, just out in London - a new appraisal of world naval power.*

*Jane's saying the Soviet Union now has three times as many submarines - and five times as many cruisers - as the United States; and also "leads the world in seaborne missile armament - both strategic and tactical." Jane's observing that the Soviet Navy - is, indeed, "a very powerful fighting force."*

*What about the U.S.? Well, we're still way ahead in aircraft carriers - says Jane's. It adds, however, that cutbacks in U.S. Naval power - have taken a heavy toll. Further observing that the U.S. Navy is being subjected "to misinformed, illogical and irrational attacks - by some of those who depend on it most;" both at home - and abroad.*

## NATION'S PARK

*For two months, the National Park Service experimented with a reservation system for campsites in National Parks.*

*The Park Service farmed out the work of reservation-taking to a private firm. Things didn't work out and both parties have decided not to get into any long-term agreement. And starting at the end of this month, the campsites will be available to people on the same basis as the bears: First come, first served.*



# SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ALASKA-ONE"

And now - a special report from Lowell Thomas.

## ALASKA PIPELINE I

*Wonder if you're still interested in that Alaska Pipeline and its construction - interested now that we no longer hear as much about the energy crisis? The first part of the project has been almost ninety percent completed, that is the construction of a road right through the heart of Alaska - all the way North to the Arctic Coast. Without such a road the pipeline just couldn't be built. The Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco is handling the tough, tough job of half that route, from the Yukon River north over the Tundra, over the ice-capped mountains of the Brooks Range, up to Prudoe Bay, to the Arctic. Along this route the Bechtels have twelve camps already.*

*Not until next year will the construction really get going from the Yukon south over the mountains through to the east of America's loftiest, Mount McKinley, and then on down to the Port of Valdez on the Gulf of Alaska. An exciting project. So long.*