

August 18, 1972 Friday
Allen Jackson

GOOD EVENING:

Today's strange story of a United jetliner hijacking - got stranger as it continued with the lone hijacker - demanding a shopping list full of items - gold bullion - two-million dollars in cash - more guns - baby diapers - sleeping pills and smelling salts - among other things.

The middle-aged hijacker and the plane - with its crew of three - are back in the U S now - in Seattle - after spending much of the day ^{north of the border} in Vancouver - where officials finally convinced the hijacker they couldn't meet his money demands - because, they explained, there isn't two million dollars in U S cash in all of British Columbia.

The strangest aspect of it all - the hijacker rode onto the airport at Reno, Nevada this morning - and up to the parked airliner - on his bicycle - carrying a rifle on the handle-bars.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM COMMITTEE

There was some redrafting by the Republican platform committee in Miami Beach - as it added tougher language - on busing, welfare and amnesty for draft evaders. As rewritten - the proposed platform is flat against amnesty for evaders of Vietnam service - and it dropped an earlier suggestion that amnesty BE considered - after the war. Something the Democrats included in THEIR platform.

The committee also went beyond the White House proposals in calling for a consitutional amendment - if necessary - to halt busing to achieve racial balance in schools. As for welfare - the committee used tough language saying - it opposes the use of hard-earned dollars to support those who can work - but choose not to.

MIDEAST

Senator George McGovern has asked U-N Secretary-General Waldheim to intervene on behalf of those Jews in the Soviet Union who want to emigrate to other countries but cannot - because of current Soviet policy. McGovern suggested that Waldheim undertake a personal mission to Moscow, or designate someone else, to discuss the issue with Soviet authorities. McGovern cited what he said was a new Soviet law which requires the payment of thousands of dollars in fees by educated Jews who want to leave the country. The official Soviet view is that the fees should be paid because those seeking visas were educated at Soviet government expense.

In Cairo, newspaper columnist Mohammed Heikal claims that Russia and the United States agreed to isolate the Arab-Israeli mideast conflict in order to avoid a possible confrontation between the super-powers. As a result, he says, "the Soviet military presence in Egypt was like a cannon without ammunition" - and for that reason some

fifteen-thousand Russian military advisers last month were ordered out of the country.

MOROCCO

An official spokesman for the Moroccan government told a news conference in Rabat that Defense Minister Mohamed Oufkir was the mastermind of the assassination attempt against King Hassan two days ago. Oufkir is reported to have committed suicide after rebel air force pilots failed in their attempt to gun down a jetliner bringing Hassan home from a trip to France.

OLYMPICS

In Munich, Black members of the U-S Olympic track and field team vowed they would take a united stand with their African brothers and walk out of the games if Rhodesia is allowed to participate . Twelve African nations have threatened to withdraw unless the Olympic committee reverses its decision to allow the Rhodesia athletes to take part in the games, scheduled to begin August Twenty-Sixth.

CHES (with Thomas Tape)

Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky today agreed to a draw in the fifteenth game of their world chess championship match at Reykjavik, Iceland - leaving Bobby still three points ahead, nine to six. The American challenger finished the match aware that a MILLION-dollar-plus lawsuit had been filed against him in New York for allegedly breaching a television coverage contract. What do the folks up in Iceland think of Bobby Fischer? Lowell Thomas has some thoughts on that as we hear now in this report from Reykjavik.

Tape Runs: 1:38

Outcue: So Long from Iceland.

AIRLINE

This Sunday, August Twentieth, the oldest airline in North America - Mexicana of Mexico - celebrates its Forty-Eighth anniversary. Founded in Nineteen-Twenty-Four during an oil boom at the Gulf Coast port of Tampico, it's reason for coming into being was NOT to carry passengers. In those days, bandits were plundering the oil company payroll caravans which traveled by road from Mexico City to Tampico - but soon the bandits were standing frustrated on the ground while the new airline carried the payrolls and other valuables in the skies overhead. Mexicana was founded by Tampico banker George Rihl who purchased four small fifty-four-mile-an-hour Lincoln Standard planes from an air circus - to avoid the payroll bandits on the grounds. Now - almost half a century later - bandits unfortunately - have taken to the air - via hijacks.

Now for Lowell - this is Allen Jackson - so long.