

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

No one -- no one is calling President Johnson's tour -- "non political". The President definitely out to mend political fences. The first time he's done this -- since he entered the White House. The State -- Florida. Mr. Johnson flying to Jacksonville with the First Lady -- and their two daughters. Then on to Palatka by helicopter -- for the ceremonial start of work on the trans-Florida canal. Followed by a flight to Miami; -- and tonight fund-raising dinner. President Johnson, drumming up enthusiasm -- also money -- with an eye to the coming campaign. His biggest offensive yet -- against the G O P.

The President also called on Joseph P. Kennedy.

CANAL FOLLOW JOHNSON

Incidentally, the canal across Florida from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico - is an old idea. Dating back to eighteen twenty-nine - four years after the Erie Canal showed the way. But - the engineering problem in Florida was too much for the equipment of the period. A century later, work began - during ^{the} Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Only to be abandoned - for fear that the sea water would contaminate Florida's fresh water.

Well, ^{all} ~~at~~ the difficulties - have been licked.

And this time - we'll finish the job. Finish what President Johnson started today by pushing the button that touched off the first explosion. Within ten years, ships will be sailing across Florida - from the Ocean to the Gulf.

At his new conference today, Secretary of State Rusk emphasized - the problem of Cuba. Especially - Castro subversion in Latin America. The bearded Dictator running guns - to the Red underground in Venezuela. And elsewhere. Dean Rusk told his audience that more stringent measures - will have to be taken against Castro. Possibly including an O A S boycott of European firms - that trade with him.

South Viet Nam? ^{The}~~Our~~ Secretary of State declined to answer questions about strategy - because the Secretary of Defense will be on his way to Saigon next week. But Dean Rusk admitted that we are giving a lot of thought to - the supply line between North Viet Nam and the guerrillas in South Viet Nam. The President and his advisors - discussing what to do about it.

COMMUNISM

The ferment in the Communist bloc - is boiling in Peking. The ~~capital~~ capital of Red China - ^{(about to play} ~~host~~ ^{host} to two top level conferences. One - with the ~~USSR~~ Soviet Union. The other - with Communist Rumania.

Not so long ago, the Rumanian comrades ~~would~~ wouldn't have dared to send a delegation - to Peking. But Bucharest is chafing - under Soviet controls; That Khrushchev plan - to pastoralize Rumania. Keep heavy industry - in the more developed countries of Eastern Europe. A plan that the Rumanian Reds - reject. The Rumanian delegation ^{is going to angle for -} ~~to~~ ~~in~~ ~~Peking~~ ~~to~~ ~~for~~ ~~new~~ ~~economic~~ ^{ties} with the rival of the Soviet Union.

As for the Russian delegation - it's trying to work out a border agreement with Red China. Khrushchev's representatives, trying to get Mao Tse Tung to stop claiming - Soviet provinces conquered ^{- taken} from China in the days of Czarist imperialism.

CHOW

Now wouldn't it have been a remarkable α touch of international irony - if the Premier of Red China had been killed in Ceylon? Killed by a train - donated to Ceylon by Red China?

It almost happened - near Colombo. Chou En Lai, riding in a motorcade - along the highway that crosses the railroad track. The lead car - passed the crossing. But the Red Premier's chauffeur jolted to a stop - that almost threw him out of the seat.

Reason - that train from Red China, roaring around a curve, barreling through - the motorcade, missing Chou En Lai's car - by a few feet.

What about - the engineer? He's a ^{Singalese} ~~Ceylonese~~

And he's been ordered - to have his eyes examined.

CRASH

Now that plane crash -- at Oita Airport in Japan. The landing was perfect -- but the brakes didn't hold. The twin-engine Convair skidded off the runway, crashed into a wall -- and burst into flames. The toll -- twenty killed. With -- twenty-two survivors.

SATELLITE

"Cosmos Twenty-Five" - is doing a lot of talking tonight. The Soviet sputnik - sending back information from outer space. Information about radiation - and the problems of communication. The twenty-fifth successful shot in the series - designed to pave the way for future manned space flights. ~~Of~~ ~~course~~ Moscow never reveals - the number of failures. But western scientists are not minimizing the feat represented by - "Cosmos twenty-five."

COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard bill that passed the House today - calls for ninety-three million dollars. Twenty one million more - than President Johnson asked for.

The backers of the Bill pointed out ^{that} this branch of the armed forces - hasn't had a major piece of legislation in fifteen years. "Woeful neglect of the Coast Guard" - as they put it. Their colleagues - agree ^{ing} ~~ing~~ passing the measure - by a voice vote.

The ninety-three million to be spent on everything from twenty-seven new Coast Guard cutters - to a new field house for the Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut.

HOOVER

The latest medical bulletin on former President Hoover-- is called the final one. That is, the phrase "considerable improvement" tells the story. Our former President, rallying so strongly -- that no more medical bulletins are called for. He was able to sit up -- for breakfast this morning, with his doctors thinking about -- letting their patient go back to his pipe.

A man of near 90 who has licked one more illness -- and says he's anxious to get back to work. America's elder statesman -- Herbert Hoover.

GLENN

The case of John Glenn seems to be the ultimate with regard to an old story - the one about the bold explorer who comes back from the jungle - without a scratch. And then slips on a banana peel - and breaks a few bones.

The Glenn version - goes like this. The first American to orbit the earth - pulled on the door of the medicine chest in his home in Columbus, Ohio. Whereupon, the entire medicine chest, - came tumbling down. The astronaut ducked, slipped, banged his head on the bath tub - and ended up in the hospital. Diagnosis - a mild concussion.

Dieb, The space capsule whirling around our planet was never like home - for John Glenn. ~~It was a lot safer.~~
in Space.

MONKEY

If you are looking for the oddest income tax deduction consider the following from Melbourne, Australia: -- Lindsay Schmidt runs a sheep station -- two hundred miles from Melbourne. One of his helpers -- nine year old Johnnie, who does a lot of chores around the ranch; herding sheep, feeding the horses, plowing with a tractor -- and so on. Just what you'd expect on a sheeepy station -- in the Australian out back.

Except -- that Johnnie is a monkey. And his owner convinced the tax collector -- that the monkey really is a hired hand. Hence -- a legitimate tax deduction. No monkey business. Down Under -- where the sheep station employs a chimp as a hired hand.