

L.T. - OLDS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1962.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Kennedy's opening statement at his news conference - forestalled some obvious questions. The President, telling his audience - about Francis Gary Powers, as much as said, as is proper to make public at this time, regarding the pilot of that ill-fated U-2 flight.

We now know from the top, what we had already guessed - that Powers, here in the U.S.A., now, is under interrogation - following his reunion with his wife and parents. The executive branch of the government - asking him about his flight, his experiences in the Soviet prison and so on. Later - Congress probably will have its turn at questioning him.

As for the rest of us - the President says that after Washington is finished with him, the U-2 pilot

will be allowed to speak without restraint - except for any hush-hush details of the plane and his mission. Powers, just an ordinary citizen now - no longer under official discipline.

As for other matters you may have heard the President as he took them one by one. Khrushchev's plan for - an eighteen nation summit conference? Mr. Kennedy rejects the idea - although he's willing to meet the Soviet boss, if - Khrushchev allows some progress at a lower level.

That phrase "progress at a lower level" came up - in a humorous way. He was asked whether he might confer with Senator Thurmond - who has charged that the military is being "muzzled." The President smiled that famous Kennedy smile - and said he'd like to see - "progress at a lower level."

Disarmament? He agrees - that Red China will have

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to be brought in, somehow. Secrecy - in the CIA budget?  
President Kennedy pointed out why some secrecy - is in  
the national interest. South Viet Nam? He denies a  
Republican charge - that we are getting involved in -  
another Korea. Punta del Este? He considers the  
conference a success - because it officially ruled  
Castro and Communism out of the Inter-American system.

## BERLIN

The mystery of Khrushchev's attitude toward the West - is deeper tonight. The boss of the Kremlin - still speaking out of both sides of his mouth. Calling for - a summit conference. At the same time - increasing tension in Berlin. Today, another attempt - to curtail Allied flights to West Berlin. A Soviet Mig, zooming near - a British transport, Attempting to force it - out of the air corridor. Veering off - when the transport stayed right on course.

While the incident in the air was taking place - there were some Soviet shenanigans on the ground. The Russian commandant, racing through a British check-point -- into West Berlin. Solovyev, avoiding the American check-point -- where he's banned, because of Soviet interference with our traffic. More interesting - the Soviet commander violated an East German rule that foreigners must use the American check-point. Solovyev, contemptuously showing his East German puppets - ~~who's~~ who's the boss in East Germany.

## CUBA

Two dispatches, one from Washington and one from Havana - throw light on one another.

In Washington, formal expulsion of Castro's Cuba - from the Organization of American States. The Council of the OAS, acting on orders - from Punta del Este. <sup>Because</sup> ~~Reason~~ Cuba is now a red police state.

As if to prove it, the Havana dispatch tells of a hard core Communist taking control of - Cuba's National Land Reform Institute. Carlos Rodriguez, replacing Fidel Castro in the bureau / that has had a major share in communizing Cuba.

Does this mean - a direct take-over by the Cuban Communist Party? Is Castro - on the way out? Experts on Latin-America -- are wondering.

## ASTRONAUT

This was one day when the ~~President~~ President of the United States was ready to defer to - a Marine. In fact - he was anxious to. President Kennedy, disappointed that he wasn't bumped off the air this morning - by Colonel John Glenn.

Astronaut Glenn, more disappointed - than anyone. Still, he knew that he had only a fifty-fifty chance -- what with the turbulent weather out in the Atlantic. So he took his eighth postponement - in good humor, And - went back to waiting once more. Maybe - not so long this time. The count-down at Cape Canaveral - now on a day-to-day basis.

## WEATHER

In The Rocky Mountains ~~tonight - are having~~ the worst floods within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. Hardest hit - Idaho. At Pocatello, the Port Neuf River burst through - a dyke of sandbags. Five and a half feet of water, surging through the city - in a tidal wave. Carrying houses - away. Driving a thousand persons - to higher ground. Turning Pocatello's Raymond Park - into a lake.

After Idaho - Wyoming. The town of Manderson, deserted - because it's covered by the Norwood River. And Greybull, Wyoming, would be flooded - if planes hadn't broken up two ice jams with dynamite bombs.

The same thing - in Utah and Colorado. Farther east - snow. A record snowfall in Michigan - eleven inches, within twenty-four hours. Most of the shipping on the Great Lakes - immobilized, tonight.

Still farther east - a blanket of white from New England to Dixie. In Washington, <sup>where I was today,</sup> there was so much slush ~~today~~ that it cut down attendance at President Kennedy's news conference. Only three hundred and five newsmen - turning up. The rest, covering the President - by way of radio and TV.

## COINS

~~You may be pleased to know - that there is been no~~

No coin clipping in America during the past year. Coin clipping?

Once, <sup>it was</sup> a common criminal offense - as common as forging checks is today. ~~The~~ Laws forbidding it - date back to the Middle Ages, ~~That was~~ when <sup>clever</sup> ~~astute~~ individuals made a living - by cutting slivers from gold and silver coins, ~~They'd~~ melt the slivers - and mint their own money.

In Seventeen Ninety-Three, Congress passed a law that once every year a commission would meet - to inspect the nation's coinage. Place - the Philadelphia mint. That's where the ceremony has been held - ever since. Including today - when President Kennedy's seventeen appointees ~~at~~ convened.

They examined about two hundred coins - chosen at random across the country. Carefully weighing - each one. The results - negative. We may have criminals in America - in Nineteen Sixty-Two, ~~But~~ - we have no coin clippers.



## INDIA

Here's a story that's familiar - and a bit unfamiliar too. From New Delhi, announcing that voters will be transported to the polls - in the coming election. A party practice - not unknown, in elections closer ~~to~~ home.

The unfamiliar part - the vehicles to be used by the political parties of India. Herds of elephants, lined up - waiting for the balloting to begin. The key to the voting in jungle areas - the lumbering pachyderms of Hindustan.

*Dick, Would you ride an elephant to the polls - and then vote Democratic?*

## COLUMBUS

Over in London, Christie's Auction House now admits - it did make a mistake. Its experts, taken in by a forgery.

That letter supposed to have been written to Columbus, by Ferdinand and Isabella; a letter, proclaiming the great navigator - Admiral of the Ocean Seas. Apparently, a priceless - historical document. Christie's, all set to start the bidding - at twenty thousand pounds.

Then from Seville came a protest - that the document was written by an ingenious Yankee in the Nineteenth Century. A good story, until Christie's decided it was indeed a phoney letter to Christophero Columbo. Signed by - Their Majesties, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella - that is, by an American forger.