

INTRODUCTION

TO BROADCAST

L.T. - (Olds), Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1960.  
(Be given by Walter Cronkite)

I suppose it's appropriate to begin tonight's broadcast by referring to Lowell Thomas - and the weather. Lowell is in Alaska - flying from Fairbanks to Anchorage. Sounds pretty cold - Alaska in late December. The truth is that our forty-ninth state is having -- a comparatively mild winter. There's even some doubt that they'll have a white Christmas - in Anchorage.

Here in the "South Forty-Eight" - as the Alaskans call the rest of us - there's no doubt. The Mid-West -- frozen in. New England - facing another blizzard. South along the east coast - mountains of ice and slush.

Yes, we've got a right to be a bit envious of Lowell - as he flies north into an Alaska winter. Meanwhile, let's take a look at - the news.

Crash. The Civil Aeronautics Board has just released a word-for-word record -- of conversations that took place on Friday. It is a harrowing document -- revealing what was said as two planes collided above New York.

Here are key lines from the transcript.

The Control Tower at La Guardia Field -- "What's his altitude?"

Idlewild -- "He was last cleared to five thousand feet."

La Guardia -- "Oh boy -- our man was at five thousand too."

Then La Guardia added the sentence -- "We lost one aircraft." So had Idlewild. The collision had just taken place.

(Note for Mr. Cronkite -- This is the latest I have on this story. Vince.)

QUESADA

The head of the Federal Aviation Agency - is under fire again. Yesterday President Patterson of United Airlines called Elwood Quesada - "out of order", for suggesting that the United plane was off course when ~~as it collided~~<sup>collided</sup> with the TWA jet. Today Clarence Sayen of the ~~Airli~~ Air Line Pilots Association - took up the criticism. Sayen charged that Quesada seems to think - one of the pilots was to blame for the air tragedy. The head of A.L.P.A. calls this notion - "irresponsible." Adding - ~~that~~ at this stage of the inquiry, no one knows exactly why the two planes arrived at the same spot above New York, at the same time.

The "Graveyard of Ships" is still earning its nickname. Fearsome Cape Hatteras, off the Carolina coast - where the floor of the Atlantic is lined with the wrecks of three centuries.

Today - another one. The American tanker "█████ Pine Ridge" broke in ~~to~~ two -- under the pounding of massive waves. The disaster, striking so swiftly - the ship's radio man didn't have time to send an SOS. The wreckage of the tanker - first spotted by a Norwegian vessel. Tonight the Coast Guard is fighting through heavy seas - in the search for survivors *among the thirty-seven men aboard.* Cape Hatteras, the "Graveyard of Ships" - now the graveyard of the "█████ Pine Ridge".

PLANE

The Navy plane with nine crewmen aboard that crashed in the North Atlantic - was taking part in naval exercises. The pilot, supposed to maintain constant radio contact - with his base at Argentia, Newfoundland. When his radio went dead - the alarm sounded. Search planes have spotted the wreckage of the plane - a P-2-V Neptuen - in the water off the Newfoundland coast. No sign - of survivors.

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KENNEDY

Today the President-elect was talking about - money.  
Your money - and mine. Meaning - the national economy.

John Kennedy met with Douglas Dillon - who will be his  
Secretary of the Treasury. And with David Bell - the Budget  
Director of the in-coming administration. Also an in  
attendance - other top financial advisors. They gathered in  
Palm Beach - to exchange views with Mr. Kennedy.

The specific problem today - the budget estimates for  
Nineteen Sixty-Two. The victorious Democrats - taking a look  
at the Eisenhower prediction for the coming fiscal year.  
Then discussing what to do about it - after they take office  
next month.

## NEW ORLEANS

The court ruling handed down in New Orleans today - is one of the most stringent on record. It's aimed squarely at - the segregationists of Louisiana. Forbidding them to continue their attack - on the School Board. Or to attempt to replace the Board - with the State Attorney General.

The court also orders the banks of New Orleans to honor checks written by the School Board - as long as it has deposits to cover them. Where is the money going to come from? The three judges - are trying to do something about that. They've ruled that the city must hand over certain taxes - taxes already collected, but deliberately withheld from the schools.

Today's judicial action in New Orleans indicates that Louisiana segregationists have just about reached the end of the line - as far as their chances of winning in the courts are concerned.



ISRAEL

Israel is not building - an atomic bomb. This was stated flatly by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion -- after close questioning by members of <sup>his</sup> ~~the Israeli~~ Parliament. Ben-Gurion, terming reports to the contrary - "deliberate untruths." Then going on to say - his government is setting up an atomic reactor for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It will have a capacity of - twenty-four thousand kilowats. And is expected to be in operation - within four years.

Actually - this is Israel's second atomic reactor. The first was built - with American help. The one now under construction - with French help.

The key point, of course - is that Israel <sup>**SWARS IT**</sup> is not trying to develop atomic weapons. Hence there's no fear of the Arab nations being frightened into developing or buying - atomic bombs of their own.

MOSCOW

Here's an interesting sidelight - on the Soviet economy. The Mayor of Moscow is calling for - a reduction in taxi fares. Which may not sound - very revolutionary. But the Mayor's reason - is one we've never come across before.

He says his idea is - to reduce car sales. He points out that too many Moscovites would like to own - their own cars. And there just aren't enough - to go around. Hence, His Honor's alternative. You may not be able to buy a car - in Moscow. But - don't complain. You'll be able to afford a taxi - if the Mayor has his way.

But Dick, AS WE NEW YORKERS KNOW,  
EVEN IF YOU CAN AFFORD A TAXI AT  
CHRISTMAS TIME, HOW DO YOU FIND ONE?

## MICE

Now here's to Moe and Amy - the proud parents of quintuplets. Moe and Amy - two black mice who are doing their bit to advance science. Last October they went for a ride in a rocket - that took them six hundred miles high, and four thousand miles down the Atlantic range from Cape Canaveral.

Moe and Amy came back - in good shape. Showing no signs that they had been injured by - radioactivity in outer space. The one remaining scientific question was - what about their hereditary biology? Would their offspring - be affected?

Our scientists at the Aerospace Medical Center in San Antonio - decided to find out. They performed a marriage ceremony - for the two space travelers. Now the result - quintuplets, in perfect health. Five little mice who are providing the first scientific data - on the genetics of space flight. And it's all due to those intrepid pioneers of rocketry - their parents, Moe and Amy.

As Lowell would have it - so long until then.