

L.T. COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1966

(From Seattle)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

~~Good Evening~~ From Seattle tonight -- on my way to Alaska, where as usual we now spend Christmas, up not too far from where Santa Claus lives.

Having just gotten off the plane and had a long look at the news wire, here are a few of the highlights of what has been going on in the world today.

RANCH

A domestic summit meeting today -- at the LBJ Ranch.

President Johnson meeting with nine Democratic Governors

-- in an effort to still recent criticism of Administration

policies. And from all appearances -- he was at least

partially successful.

Governor Hughes of Iowa -- spokesman for the visitors

at a later news conference. "We leave" -- said he -- "in

complete support of the policies and precepts of the

President." "These" -- he added -- "were never in question."

LENENGRAD

Five hours of anxious waiting -- and, finally, a verdict today at Leningrad. American tourist Craddock Gilmour, of Salt Lake City -- getting off with a fine of Eleven Hundred Dollars. But his Buddy -- Buel Ray Wortham, of Little Rock, Arkansas -- sentenced to three years in Siberia; for trading in black market rubels -- and ~~not~~⁹ swiping that small Russian bear.

Wortham's sentence -- the stiffest handed an American in Russia -- since nineteen-sixty-one; when alleged American spy Marvin Makinen -- was sentenced to eight years hard labor. An immediate protest -- from the U.S. Embassy which called the verdict -- unduly "harsh and out of proportion" -- to the charges involved. Further indicating the possibility of an appeal to the Soviet Supreme Court -- or perhaps even to Soviet President Podgorny.

Unfortunately, there is no known record -- of any American ever successfully appealing a Russian verdict.

VIETNAM

For the first time in six months -- an apparent attempt today at a Communist air attack on the American Seventh Fleet in the Gulf of Tomkin. U.S. Navy jets intercepting two enemy aircraft -- headed directly for the nuclear powered cruiser Long Beach. Both apparently shot down by air-to-air missiles -- before they could do any damage.

Back on shore -- a sudden resurgence of ground fighting -- despite the nearness of the Christmas truce. To the north -- the Viet Cong launching a machine gun attack against Marine positions -- near that supposedly de-militarized zone. Paying for the effort -- with the loss of at least sixty lives. Additional fighting at nearby Hue -- and also to the south -- near Da Nang.

DA-NANG FOLLOW VIETNAM

By the way -- a postscript today to the story of Lieutenant Commander James Chandler; the Navy surgeon stationed at Da Nang, -- who removed a live rifle grenade yesterday from the throat of a young marine.

As you may have heard -- Commander Chandler found the grenade almost by accident, and when he did he took it out at the risk of his own life; and depositing it in an open area -- and then ran. He now insists that he wasn't any sort of hero.

The Commander explaining: "When I realized what I had taken out of his neck -- I knew I couldn't put it back; so I said to myself -- let's get going."

FLORENCE

For the first time since early November -- the world famous art museums of Florence were re-opened today to the public. The Uffizi Gallery, the Pitti Palace, and Twenty-eight other museums -- admitting Florentines and tourists alike for the holidays. Even though many still bear the scars of flood damage.

Meanwhile, Italian experts in special art "hospitals" are attempting to restore nearly nine hundred works of art, withheld from public view -- pending emergency repairs.

ATHENS

At Athens -- Greek King Constantine moved swiftly today -- to stem a mounting political crisis. The Monarch appointing George Paraskevopoulos -- to form a new government; in the wake of the resignation -- of Greek Premier Stephanos Stephanopoulos.

Paraskevopoulos -- at present -- Governor of the Bank of Greece -- with little political experience.

Informed sources predicting, however, that he will try to form -- a so-called non-political government; and simply get ready for new general elections -- probably to be held in the spring.

TOKYO

One of the first orders from General MacArthur -- as Occupation Commander of Japan was an edict emancipating Japanese women; giving them the right to vote; and -- equal standing with men in the eyes of the law.

Now -- at last -- comes an historic test of that law as it applies to the Japanese business world. Madame Setsuko Suzuki, of Tokyo -- bucking ancient Japanese tradition by appealing to the courts because she was fired. Why? Merely because she got married.

Madame Suzuki -- a file clerk in a cement company -- admitting she signed a form standard for women in Japanese business. Promising she would resign if she got married -- or at age thirty-five -- whichever came first. But she called the agreement unconstitutional -- and the Japanese courts have just agreed.

Madame Setsuko Suzuki -- back at her old job today -- with a bonus of three thousand dollars -- in back pay. all a symbol of a new era in post-war Japan, this story of Setsuko Suzuki.

INDIA

Perfome Miss Sally Budd of Dallas, Texas -- now the Princess Shailini Devi Holkar of Maheshwara, India; by virtue of an exotic Hindu wedding today -- at the Pearl Palace of the Holkar Dynasty -- on the banks of the River Narbada. A traditional wedding complete with fifteen thousand guests -- thousand's of dollars worth of fireworks -- a platoon of Hindu Priests -- and a sprinkling of millions of rose petals.

The groom -- Prince Richard Yashwantra Holkar, who met Miss Budd at Stanford University -- where both are students. The couple planning to finish their studies -- after a brief honeymoon including a tiger hunt.

Incidentally, the new bride was asked after the ceremony -- how it feels to be princess of India -- a Maharani. Said she, Warren, "It feels just great." And may it continue to be -- say we.

ENDING

It seems only yesterday that it took three days and two nights to cross this continent from New York to Puget Sound, by train. Some thought it was a speedy way too. It had taken our relatives so much longer, by covered wagon.

Now, by jet we do it in five hours, and someone on the plane complained that it was a long tiresome journey. Wonder what she'll say two years from now when we make it in two hours?

For me the time flashed by. Because I was reading two most interesting books. If you are behind on your Christmas shopping -- like me -- just dash out and get a copy of a book called "The Reasoner Report"; by that handsome young man you often listen to on CBS-TV. Not to make this a family matter, I suggest you also get a copy of Gene Shepherd's "In God We Trust; All Others Pay Cash."

Harry Reasoner and Gene Shepherd at their sparkling best

And now, I'm off on the next plane for Alaska...so from KIRO. Seattle -- solong until tomorrow.