

THURS. SEPT. 26, 1968
(Dallas Townsend)

Good evening everybody.

George Ball resigned this afternoon as US Ambassador to the United Nations - a post which he held only four months. He did so, he said, in order to help in the presidential campaign of Hubert Humphrey...and to do what he can to prevent the election of Richard Nixon. Ball said it's essential that the President of the US be a man with settled principles and vision. It is not enough to have had exposure to foreign affairs. Far more important, Ball added - the President must possess the perception and compassion that will enable him to feel and understand the epic forces now at work in a changing world. It is because I'm convinced that Hubert Humphrey has those qualities, and Richard Nixon lacks them - Ball went on - that I am compelled by conscience to adopt my present course of action.

President Johnson accepted Ball's resignation "with reluctance," and named J. Russell Wiggins, editor of the Washington Post, to succeed him at the UN.

SAN FRANCISCO THE SAN FRANCISCO

In San Francisco - Humphrey strikes out on his own. This in first major foreign policy address - since his nomination. The Vice President unveiling what he called - a "new strategy for peace." With its principal ingredient - an international force under the auspices of the United Nations; charged with keeping the peace - around the world. And "nowhere would a United Nations peace-keeping force be more welcome" - said Humphrey - "than in Vietnam; to administer free elections - and verify the withdrawal of foreign troops."

ST. LOUIS FOLLOW SAN FRANCISCO

More on Campaign-Sixty-Eight from St. Louis - where Richard Nixon was wooing the youth vote today. Telling a group of high school students he wouldn't be running for President - if he didn't share the same hopes and aspirations of young Americans.

Accordingly, Nixon setting himself two top priority goals he will attempt to achieve - if elected President First - a negotiated peace in Vietnam; which "we would have had by now" - said he - if "our power had been used more effectively." And second - a volunteer army.

WALLACE

As for third party candidate George Wallace - he is still taking a brief respite from the campaign trail, however, the Wallace name - still making plenty of headlines.

In the New York Times - of an interview; with Wallace quoted as calling for increased use of police force - to control what he referred to as anarchy and violence. While at Lansing, Michigan - Governor Romney was calling Wallace a racist and a hate-monger. Adding that "the worst thing that could happen to this country - would be for Mr. Wallace to be elected - or to have any influence in what happens."

In Chicago - publication of a photo of the former Governor - in the company of pretty, blonde Miss Ja-Neen Welch of Indianapolis. Miss Welch hinting they will soon wed. A Wallace aide replying - the story is false, untrue, and calculated to damage his candidacy. Miss Welch has been fired as a Wallace campaign worker.

STATE

From the Kremlin - we hear today - a new compromise plan for peace in the Middle East. A plan said to be under careful study - by the U.S. State Department. Reportedly suggesting - one - that Israel withdraw to the frontiers it held - before last year's June war; two - that a United Nations force - take over control of those areas evacuated by Israel; three - that Arab countries issue a declaration - ending their "state of belligerence" with Israel; and four - that the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain - join in guaranteeing the future peace in the Middle East. The Kremlin further said to suggest that all other issues - could then be decided by direct negotiation between the Arabs and Israel.

The Washington reaction to this - an official "no comment." However, Secretary of State Dean Rusk is leaving Sunday for New York - where he is expected to pursue the matter with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko and others.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - another demonstration of space wizardry - with the launching of a Titan Three-C rocket - for a six-and-a-half-hour display of precision space flying. The Air Force's mightiest rocket carrying aloft a new battlefield radio satellite - also three scientific satellites. Dropping the first off - as planned; driving the other three into stationary orbit over the Pacific - again as planned. Space officials saying at last report: "Everything is working fine."

VIETNAM

On the war front - in Vietnam - Communist forces today continued their harassment of that Green Beret camp at Katum. Pouring mortar fire into the border outpost near Cambodia - even as an American commander was presenting medals to twenty heroes of Katum. These Americans and South Vietnamese played a leading role in beating back a sneak attack day before yesterday - killing a hundred and thirty-five of the enemy.

DETROIT

Detroit - Chrysler makes it unanimous. The third of the "Big Three" automakers - falling into line today on new car prices. Scrapping an earlier price hike - condemned by President Johnson. Scaling it down to an average increase of fifty-two dollars a car - to remain competitive with Ford and General Motors.

COST

On the economic front - same old story today. The U.S. cost of living - jumping another three-tenths of one per cent last month; marking the nineteenth straight month - of steady increase.

The new increase raising the U.S. cost of living index - to one-twenty-one-point-nine. Which means it now cost about a hundred and twenty-two dollars - for the same goods and services that cost an even hundred dollars a decade ago.

Now a more cheerful word from Warren Moran.

SENATE

On Capitol Hill - another day of pre-filibuster filibustering. With Senate foes of the confirmation of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice - still holding forth loud and strong. Refusing to accept motion to take up the nomination - lest it give the Fortas' forces some sort of "psychological edge."

Among those loudest and longest today - Senator Baker of Tennessee. Citing alleged "political pressure" - in the fact that Chief Justice Earl Warren's retirement is contingent on confirmation of a successor. Baker adding that he will continue to fight "consideration of the appointment - until the President has accepted the resignation of Warren effective at a certain date."

Dallas Townsend saying Good night.