

L. T. - OLDS, FISHER - TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1964

(Anchorage, Alaska)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am still at Anchorage, Alaska, the city hit so hard by the recent earthquake -- the quake the experts say released more violent energy than ten thousand hydrogen bombs. Over the weekend when I had a general tour of the area my first reaction was, this is familiar, much like almost any city in Europe after one of those one thousand plane air raids. But yesterday I had a different kind of tour. I went on foot, along the Turnagain-Cook inlet coast.

Since then I frankly haven't been able to collect my thoughts and impressions, partly because I was stunned by what I saw -- the flattened homes, the way the earth has moved and been changed by the quake, the wierd ridges and peaks and valleys of plastic blue clay, the clay that must have floated like the

toothpaste in your tube when you squeeze it -- broken households, furniture, a big handsome desk crushed underneath a building, a desk I myself once used in a New York skyscraper, books, clothing, children's toys, everything, strewn along that coast for miles.

Another reason why my thoughts are disorganized is that I am broadcasting from a building where workmen are drilling and pounding and raising such a hullabaloo that it's impossible to think. It's noon now, and while it's quiet, let's take a look at the rest of the world for a moment, and then come back to Alaska again for a minute or two.

## MARYLAND

The Maryland primary follows a pattern we are becoming familiar with. Two candidates on the Democratic ballot -- neither of whom expects to get the nomination. One, trying to attract what he terms -- "The Protest Vote". The other -- out to beat him. The Governor of Alabama, making his third foray -- into state primaries. His opponent this time -- Senator Brewster of Maryland. The Senator, hoping for a big victory -- the fruits of which would go to President Johnson at the Convention. The Alabama Governor, hoping for -- a strong minority showing.

There's much interest in this. A big turnout of voters -- around half a million Democrats -- to cast ballots in this primary.



## CUBA

The Island of Cuba is on -- a "Maximum Alert". So indicated by the flurry of activity -- by Castro's henchmen. Troop movements -- along the beaches. More street patrols -- in Havana. And a constant stream of instructions over the radio. What to do -- in case of an invasion by anti-Castro forces.

All of which proves that the Rebel leaders -- have succeeded in one thing. They've given the bearded Dictator the jitters.



## VIET NAM

Here's a neologism - a "new word" that appears more frequently in the news from Saigon. The neologism -- "Helliborne". If you go by the Greek root -- it means "carried by a spiral".

A new word coined to fit the war -- in South Viet Nam where troops are airlifted by helicopter. As in the case of the battalion just airlifted across three hundred miles of Vietnamese jungle to a battle zone where there is no airstrip.

"Helliborne", the new neologism.

## AVIATRIX

The fastest lady in the world -- is Jacqueline Cochran.

If you are a flying buff you may say you already know that.

But the point is that Jacqueline Cochran -- has just broken her own record.

Taking off from Edwards Air Force Base, California, in a star fighter jet. Reaching an altitude -- of seven miles.

Then whipping along -- at almost one thousand, five hundred miles an hour. Fastest ever, for a plane -- with an aviatrix at the controls.

## REFUGEE

Francisek Porwell is -- a champion bicyclist who went to Sweden with a Polish team -- to take part in the Scoghall Marathon. And he was in the lead -- as the bicyclists whizzed into the home stretch. But instead of sprinting toward the Finish line -- the Polish champion suddenly swerved off the course. Raced up a side road, careened to a halt -- and jumped into a car that roared off. His Swedish girl friend -- driving.

Tonight Francisek Porwell - is asking Stockholm for asylum.

A dash for freedom -- on a bicycle. Plus the usual -- lady in the case.



## FATHER LYNCH

Among my friends up here in Alaska there are two who I believe are typical citizens of our forty-ninth state. I've always felt that Alaskans -- who actually come here and stay -- are a rather special breed. These two are Wally Hickel and "Muktuk" Marston. Wally came north as a youngster, flat broke. As for "Muktuk", when I first heard of him he was making soldiers out of the Eskimos. Both have battled against all the odds that you have to face up here, and both are, I guess affluent is the word. Someone should write a biography of each of these men.

I asked "Muktuk" and "Wally" whether people should rebuild in some other area, a few miles away? They both said: "No, we'll rebuild right here! We didn't come to Alaska in search of security!" And, they made it more emphatic than that! Which brings me to a personal message I have brought north, a message to the people of this part of Alaska.

Before leaving New York I 'phoned America's most famous Seismologist -- expert on earthquakes. In fact I invited Father

Lynch of Fordham University to come north with me. He said that although he couldn't make it at this time, he did have a message for the people of Anchorage, Valdez -- for the earthquake area. Said Father Lynch: -- "I have heard from a friend at Elmendorf Field (the Air Force Base near Anchorage) that people are planning on rebuilding right where the earthquake hit." Then he went on: -- "Tell them, Lowell, that if they do this I think they will be safe for -- at least two hundred years."

"How do you figure that Father Lynch?" I asked. To which he replied: -- "When a force of such extreme violence is expended it releases so much energy that it just can't happen again in that area for some hundreds of years." Then he explained how an earthquake is not at all like the eruption of a volcano. It's a release of forces in the earth's crust that put certain strains on certain rock formations; and when that energy is released, that's it!

People here already are rebuilding, at high speed. And, as I believe I mentioned yesterday, this is an ideal year for travellers to visit Alaska, because in addition to the great show Alaska always put on for travellers, greatest big game country in the world next to Africa, land of a fisherman's dreams, interesting colorful people, memories of Gold Rush days, those spectacular breath-taking fjords, mountains, and glaciers -- in addition to all that you have the excitement that's in the air following the most tremendous earthquake that has hit North America since the days of Christopher Columbus and Vitus Bering.

And now, Dick, it's your turn to release a little energy.



## ENDING

One more bit about Alaska. As all the world should know, Americans are generous, always giving away their wealth, often to our enemies. And when the earthquake hit Alaska many in the south forty-eight began sending clothes up north -- the one thing Alaskans really didn't need. So many clothes were sent that up here they just didn't know what to do with them, and I hear piles were auctioned off, for a song, to raise extra money that was needed.

Then, there was the company down below that generously sent up a big cargo of coffee. All that did was upset the economy, make it difficult for people up here who have coffee to sell. There was no coffee shortage.

I also heard of the rich man in Hawaii who sent a hundred thousand pounds of watercress. If he had fresh mint, for mint Juleps, that might have made sense.

I am reminded of all this by a story published today in Alaskan newspapers, about the lovable company of Los Angeles

ENDING - 2

sending twenty-five dozen brassieres to Valdez. As the dispatch says, "to aid Valdez earthquake victims get back on their feet." Valdez had a population of several thousand, but the town was almost wiped out; women and children sent away, only a couple of hundred men left in Valdez. Can you imagine the endearing, lovable remarks they'll make when they open up those cases of brassieres from the thoughtful lovable company?