

ASTRONAUTS

L.I. - Busola, Fisher. Mon. Mar. 29 - 65.

In New York today -- a royal but rain-swept welcome for America's twin astronauts. Gus Grissom and John Young pelted by rain and sleet -- driven by winds up to twenty-five miles an hour -- ^{during} ~~in~~ the traditional ticker tape parade up Broadway.

But thousands of New Yorkers braving ^{ed} the elements -- to greet the space men. Some pulling ^{small} ~~tiny~~ American flags from under their raincoats -- and waving them at the astronauts as they passed by. The two men bareheaded throughout -- as was their official guide -- Vice President ~~Hubert H.~~ Humphrey. Humphrey later declaring that despite the weather -- the astronauts had "never encountered a more warming welcome."

When it was all over, Gus Grissom spoke for the space twins. Asked his opinion of the reception -- he smiled, raised a thumb and said simply -- "It's go."

CAPE FOLLOW ASTRONAUTS

Meanwhile, another work stoppage at Cape Kennedy today -- the sixth in a little over a year. Pickets from an out-of-town plumbers' union -- protesting the use of non-union labor at the Cape. Turning back nearly five thousand construction men -- as they reported for work. The tie-up once again halting progress -- on some two hundred million dollars worth of construction at the Florida spaceport.

VIET NAM

In Washington--Maxwell Taylor today stepped into a full schedule of conferences--with the President's top diplomatic and military advisers. In the morning--the U.S. Ambassador to South Viet Nam--met with Secretary of State Dean Rusk. In the afternoon--conferring with Defense Secretary McNamara and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Taylor is expected to hold further private talks with the President sometime this week.

Meantime, no let-up in Viet Nam. U.S. Navy bombers today raining forty-five tons of bombs, rockets, napalm and shells--on a North Vietnamese radar station. Target--the Island of the White Dragon Bay--in the Gulf of Tonkin--only eighty-five miles from Red China. The second American air strike on that Communist-held island--in the last four days.

ALABAMA

Dr. Martin Luther King's call for a boycott of Alabama goods ^{was} greeted coolly today in New York -- by two speakers before the National Council of Jewish Women. Senator ~~Jacob~~ Javits of New York asserting that "the outrage" of the country -- would be far more effective in Alabama than "an indiscriminate boycott." Whitney Young Junior -- head of the National Urban League -- calling for a more discriminating approach. Adding that a total boycott would make "no distinction -- between the good guys and the bad guys." And that in itself -- would be bad.

CHILE

A new series of earth tremors today in Chile -- but seismologists calling them merely the customary aftershocks -- to yesterday's massive quake. The death toll in the Sunday disaster is now placed at about two hundred and fifty persons.-- Less than the original estimate. Still the worst earthquake disaster in Chile -- since May of Nineteen Sixty, when some six thousand lives were lost.

RIO

In a suburb of Rio de Janeiro --a railroad accident today at the height of the rush-hour. The last two cars of a freight train jumping the rails -- and smashing into the last two coaches of a passing commuter train. In the crowded commuter -- nineteen killed and ^(nearly fifty)~~thirty-three~~ injured.

POPE

First details of Pope Paul's instructions to his newly-appointed International Birth Control Commission -- disclosed today at the Vatican. The Pope recognizing the need for reasonable delays -- in a reappraisal of the church's stand on birth control. But stating that the subject calls urgently -- "for absolutely clear indications on the part of the church." This matter -- said the Pope -- cannot be permitted to expose the conscience of man -- "to the uncertainties which too often today impede married life."

COURT

The Supreme Court today armed employers -- with a broad new weapon for breaking bargaining deadlocks. The court ruling that an employer may shut down his business temporarily -- if he thinks it necessary -- to break a bargaining ~~stalemate~~ ^{stalemate} with union representatives. The court thus permitting -- a sort of a strike-in-reverse.

In a related case -- the Supreme Court ruled that an employer can close his business entirely -- for any reason he wishes. Adding, however, that if a company shuts down just a part of its operation -- ^{and this} as an anti-union move -- then it's no go.

RAILROADS

From the Interstate Commerce Commission -- a preliminary go-ahead today on the proposed merger of the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. An I.C.C. examiner report recommending approval of the merger -- with just one condition. That the combined railroad take over freight operations -- of the bankrupt New Haven Railroad.

The examiners' report now goes before the full Commission -- for a final decision. If approved -- as now appears likely -- the Pennsy-Central consolidation -- would control nearly twenty thousand miles of track in the U.S. and Canada -- as well as combined assets of more than five billion dollars. As such -- it would be the biggest and richest rail line -- in the nation.

UMBRELLAS

It's been a rainy day here in New York--
which brings up this next item--one about rain and forgetfulness
I guess.

Anyway, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board
reports that Tokyo's ten million --residents lost more than
one hundred and twenty thousand umbrellas last year.
That's about one lost umbrella--for every eighty residents
of the Japanese capital.

Most of the umbrellas mislaid during warm
weather--when they are considered more an accessory to
good grooming than a protection against inclement weather.
Where umbrellas are concerned--the Japanese evidently a
forgetful people.

Now let's see--what did I do with that next
item? Oh, Oh! Dick, will you take over a minute--I
think I left it with my umbrella.

GRANT

Out in Willoughby, Ohio -- a controversy rages today over the naming of a new school. Right now -- the school is called the Ulysses S. Grant Elementary School. But parents and students have already started circulation of a petition -- aimed at getting a new name.

The petition observing that Grant -- although an Ohioan by birth -- "was a notoriously poor example of leadership and character." That "he appointed unqualified friends and cheated the government." Also that "he drank too much -- even through important battles."

The anti-Grant group proposing that the school be renamed -- after another great military figure. A general who was -- as they put it -- "a better man -- more courageous in battle -- and a superior officer."

Who was

↑ This general better, braver and smarter than

Ulysses S. Grant -- commander of the victorious Union forces in the Civil War? None other than Robert E. Lee -- commander of the defeated South.