

L.T. BUICK, FISHER. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1965

(LT TO EUROPE -- NET CALMER SUB.)

GOOD EVENING:

A delicate maneuver today -- far out in space.

Astronauts Frank Borman and Jim Lovell -- in their fifth day of flight, when they fired two short bursts of rocket power -- in an attempt to propel the Gemini-Seven -- into a nearly circular orbit.

Result: A perfect "burn" -- said space officials.

The Gemini-Seven now ready and waiting -- in perfect position for a projected rendezvous in space, while at Cape Kennedy -- successful completion today of a crucial ground test. Coupled with an "all-clear" -- from doctors scientists and weathermen. Setting the stage for a Sunday launch of the ~~next big~~ Gemini-Six -- and successful completion of the next big step in man's conquest of space. We hope.

SHAKE-UP

*A quick shuffle in the supporting cast--today at the Kremlin.*

*Seventy-year-old Anastas Mikoyan resigning his post as President of the Soviet Union--~~reported~~ly because of old age and ill-health. His successor--in that largely ceremonial job--sixty-two-year-old Nikolai Podgorny. Perhaps best remembered as Khrushchev's traveling companion--on his visit to the United Nations in nineteen-sixty. — —*

*Former Security Chief Alexander Shelepin--<sup>1</sup> apparently to succeed Podgorny as chief of personnel--in the all-powerful Soviet Central Committee.*

*What does it all mean? According to Kremlinologists--simply that Soviet Premier Kosygin and President Brezhnev--are consolidating their powers in the Kremlin. Thus reshaping collective leadership of the Communist Party--as they see fit--in time for the*

*forthcoming Party Congress.*

POLICY

International debate ranged far and wide today--  
on the war in Viet Nam.

North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh leading  
off with a statement--that the Vietnamese people will  
never accept <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ U.S. proposal for unconditional peace  
talks. Said Ho--"our people are determined to persevere--  
to undergo sacrifices for ten or twenty years--till final  
victory."

This followed by a British <sup>appeal to Russia.</sup> ~~statement~~  
Urging the Soviets to join in an international effort--to  
persuade the North Vietnamese to enter into negotiations.  
These "as soon as possible and without prior conditions"--  
said the British.'

In the meantime, a speech in Moscow--by Soviet  
Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. In which he said that  
American intervention in Viet Nam--can not be permitted  
"to go on with impunity." The Supreme Soviet council

later approving a resolution--condemning American so-called "aggression" in Viet Nam.

The next installment--from Secretary of State Dean Rusk in Washington. Who said that Peking and Peking alone--will determine whether the United States and Red China are on a collision course over Viet Nam. In any case--said he--"we are going to meet our commitments in South Viet Nam."

The latest word--from President Johnson himself. In a telephone address from the Texas White House--to the AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco, Said he: "Our devotion to freedom is unyielding. So, too, is our hope for peace. Those who insist on testing either will find us earnest in both."

VIET NAM FOLLOW POLICY

Meanwhile, American air strikes in Viet Nam -- providing an exclamation point to the President's policy statement.

U.S. warplanes slashing at entrenched Communist positions -- in the jungles ~~in~~ south of Da Nang. Altogether -- a hundred and fifteen missions, <sup>providing</sup> ~~in~~ close support of government troops -- in fierce combat with a large force of Communist Viet Cong.

Back at Saigon -- a U.S. Air Force spokesman reporting the heaviest attack to date on North Viet Nam. An armada of more than a hundred American planes -- plastering the North Vietnamese transportation system with more than two hundred tons of bombs. Highways ~~close~~ in the north -- said to have been cut in a hundred and seventeen places.

## INDIA

*A series of decisive steps today by President Johnson -- to alleviate the threat of a disastrous famine-- across the vast subcontinent of Hindustan.*

*First--a speed-up of grain shipments to India. Calling for immediate delivery--of a million-and-a-half tons of wheat and other grains, An amount which India normally would have received--over the next three months.*

*Next--authorization of a fifty-million-dollar fertilizer loan, Aimed at boosting the Indian grain output--  
million  
from three - to - four tons in the next crop year. Finally--  
an appeal to other food-surplus nations urging them to  
assist by all means possible--in preventing an Indian famine.*

## FRANCE

*In Paris--unexpected support today for leftist Francois Mitterand--who will face DeGaulle in the run-off election for President, From Jean Lecanuet--the young, handsome middle-of-the-road candidate--who ran third in the initial ballot.*

*Although he mentioned neither candidate--Lecanuet urged his followers to vote for the man--who came out clearly in favor of European political unity. Mitterand--who is supported by the Communists--has taken such a stand. DeGaulle has not.*

*At the same time--Lecanuet announced formation of another anti-Gaullist movement. This one designed to weld small parties of the center--into a cohesive political force. Purpose: To fight DeGaulle--in the Parliamentary elections of nineteen-sixty-seven.*



## RESCUE

*The daring rescue of Russian scientists from an Arctic ice floe--reported today by the Soviet news agency Tass.*

*The scientists assigned to a Russian station--called "North Pole-Fourteen," Engaged in the study of Arctic currents--aboard an island of ice. When their floating laboratory began to buckle beneath their feet--in the midst of a raging Arctic storm.*

*Skilled Soviet pilots landing at night on the heaving ice floe--guided only by bon fires. With five trips needed in all --to remove the bulk of the station's staff--and all its valuable equipment.*

*Tass noting, however, that ten members of the expedition elected to remain behind--when the seas calmed.*

## ENGLAND

This story comes from England -- but it might reach all the way to Las Vegas. Every Friday night a young Englishman took his wages to a nearby pub and gambled away all his money on the slot machines. In desperation, his wife appealed to Dr. John Barker, a psychiatrist, who borrowed one of the slot machines, connected it to an electric SHOCK instrument used in treating mental disorders, and put it back in the pub. Everytime the young gambler pulled the handle he got Seventy-volts in the arm. After Six Hundred shocks, he lost interest in gambling. Now -- the doctor hopes -- he's cured of the habit.

Ned Calmer in New York. And as Lowell would say -- Solong until tomorrow.