

L.T. - ~~Calv.~~ Wed. Apr. 18 - '62

KENNEDY

No doubt, President Kennedy's news conference today pleased two Americans in particular; Private First Class ~~Harry~~ Chidester of Fort Lewis, Washington, who sent his Senator a ^{wire} ~~telegram~~ criticizing the President; And Private First Class Bernis Owen of Fort Polk, Louisiana - who criticized his Commanding General. Due to presidential intervention, both are being sent back to duty; with the indictment, quashed - "In the spirit of Easter" - as President Kennedy put it.

Also, the President referred to another soldier's wife. He announced that Mrs. Eisenhower will serve with Mrs. Kennedy - as co-chairman of the new Washington Cultural Centre. Will the press refer to them as "Mamie and Jackie?"

How about steel? Yesterday, as you have heard, President Kennedy had what was called an "amicable conference" at the White House with Chairman Roger Blough of U. S. Steel. Today's presidential statement was that the administration

feels no hostility toward the steel industry or toward any other industry. → According to Mr. Kennedy, Government and business are in basic agreement.

The President also said he hopes our new plan will have a "constructive" influence in Geneva; that is, the plan for a whittling down of the armed forces of the world; do it in nine years time.

~~He added that he has no illusions about Khrushchev agreeing to a nuclear test ban, and that our Christmas Island series - remains on schedule.~~

~~About the dispute in New Orleans, the ex-communication of three Catholic segregationists - by Archbishop Rummel, the President said "No comment."~~

DEFENSE

The bill passed by the house today-is the biggest defense appropriation in our peacetime history. Almost forty-eight billion dollars-to cover the expenses of army, navy, and air force, during the next fiscal year. You have to go back to the Korean War-to find a money bill as big as this one.

~~And, it's not the last word on the subject of defense. More funds, to be voted later for military construction, nuclear research, and arms for our allies.~~

ROCKETS

This was an important day-for American rocketry.

First, the revelation that our Polaris missiles will be able to hit any target in Russia by nineteen sixty-four.

Our nuclear subs, ^{ready to} ~~wielding~~ their deterrent against every part of the Soviet Union.

Second, the Strategic Air Command, taking control of nine Titan missiles; ~~Rockets~~ with atomic war-heads-buried in underground silos, able to go into action-within thirty minutes, ^{and} ~~soon~~ hit targets-around the globe.

Third-today's flight of a Jupiter missile. The significant thing being, it was fired by a crew of missile men from NATO. They launched the Jupiter-at Cape Canaveral. Sent it thundering down "Missile Alley"-between Africa and South America. Hitting the target area-fifteen hundred miles away. The men from NATO, learning how to handle rockets-in case they ever have to fire them against invading Soviet armies.

DEFECTORS

The communist bloc and the free world seem to be playing a game of-"Exchange Defectors". Renegades from both sides-deciding to go back.

In Moscow, two Russians appeared at a news conference- to explain why they left the west. The one we've heard most about, scientist Alexei Galob-defective in Amsterdam. He says that he wanted to work peacefully-in a chemical laboratory. Instead of which-he was hounded by Dutch and American intelligence agents. So Galob became disillusioned-and returned to Moscow.

Reversing the trend-two notorious Britons^{are}, returning to London. ^{Remember} Guy Burgess and Donald McLean, who defected to Russia eleven years ago[?] They had been members of the British Diplomatic Corps, and, ^{were reported have} they carried classified information to Moscow. A staggering blow-to both London and Washington.

For years, we've been hearing about-Burgess and McLean

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wanting to leave Russia; anxious to get back to Britain.
London wasn't saying "No" - to that. And Scotland Yark,
we hear, is waiting to greet the defectors - with
arrest warrants when they at long last return home.

FLOOD

More than a hundred residents of Jackson, Mississippi, fled from their homes today. Joining the two hundred, who had already left; evacuating the area threatened by the Pearl River - which is at flood crest tonight. And for the third time this year! National Guard, State Troopers, patrolmen, and volunteers - standing by in case the levee at Jackson should break.

ALASKA BULLETIN

Life is full of thrills, and I had one today - one that I'll not soon forget. Perhaps the best way would be to read something that was handed to me.

Here at KLZ in Denver, today, I was invited to go on a live television show - to chat for a half hour with a young Denver T.V. personality, Dick Becker. When the camera was turned on me, right out of the blue he handed me a United Press dispatch, and asked me to read it to his T.V. audience. It's contents came as a ~~surprise~~ surprise to me, although I had heard rumors. Here's the dispatch. I'll read it to you.

"Juneau, Alaska, April 18 - United Press International; Lowell Thomas, Jr., son of the so and so, so and so commentator, explorer and so on, has just announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination to Alaska's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Lowell, Jr., age 38, is currently on a speaking

tour of what the Alaskans call 'the South Forty-Eight, telling other Americans about Alaska. He returns to his home in Anchorage early in May." Then the dispatch continues: "In a written statement accompanying the letter of announcement, Lowell, Jr. says he believed his travels around the state during his two year's residence have given him some understanding of Alaska's special problems and needs."

Then it ends by saying that "he is seeking the seat now held by Representative Rivers, Democrat from Fairbanks, who has been in Congress since 1959 and is seeking re-election."

All this is interesting news to me for a variety of reasons; one: - my own early ambition had been to do something of this kind in Colorado; so with this announcement no one again will ever be able to say to L.T. Jr.: - "Oh, you are following in your father's

footsteps, aren't you?" A remark that I suspect has often irked him. Obviously, he is tackling some of the things that I did not succeed in doing. But then he always has been independent so far as I am concerned. On his own since he was eighteen.

And then, a second paternal comment: - My son has been an Alaska enthusiast for twenty-three years. He made his first expedition there when he was sixteen - with that famous mountaineer, Dr. Bradford Washburn. And, he has been going back and forth ever since - to nearly every part of Alaska. More than any other part of the earth, it has been his second home; and now is the place where he and his family live all of the time. He regards Alaska as the most inspiring area on this planet and came to this conclusion after taking part in more than a dozen expeditions, many journeys, to South America, Asia, Europe, and so forth.

His dream - to play a part in developing our
rich and spectacular forty-ninth state.

D.A.R.

Now, when a group of dignified ladies are called "Old and lonely women"-that's bad enough. When the epithet is applied to the Daughters of the American Revolution-it sounds even worse. But when it's supposed to have been said by the First Lady-one hardly knows what to think.

Still, the D.A.R. has been thinking about it. Today the patriotic organization mailed a letter-to the White House. Calling Mrs. Kennedy's attention to the fact-that the unflattering remark has been attributed to her. ^{That it} ~~is~~ is completely unjustified because most members of the D.A.R.-are neither old nor lonely. ^{That} They are, however, as aggravated as their ancestors were-by the Stamp Act, or the tea in Boston Harbor. The difference, [^] they'll settle for an apology instead of a revolution.

The White House reply-Jacqueline Kennedy, misquoted. The First Lady, never terming the D.A.R.-"old and lonely women".

And now, Diebs .

COLLEGE

We all know that report cards - are a part of academic life; professorial reports on students. But - suppose it's the other way around? Suppose the students begin grading their professors?

Have you heard how it happened - at Trinity College, in Hartford, Connecticut? The undergraduates, passing judgment on - the college and its faculty - with most of the grades - below passing. C. Minus - for most of the profs. The Trinity students - are demanding "original thinking, - and academic excitement."

What the profs think of the report card handed to them by their students - isn't recorded. But today, President Albert Jacobs told newsmen - he's taking the thing seriously. That he's as anxious as anybody - to bring quote - "original thinking, academic excitement" to Trinity College.