

L.T. Buick, Fisher. Fri. Dec. 31st '65,

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Before taking a ~~brief year~~ look at the news, I'd like to salute two of my CBS colleagues, Ned Calmer who took my place when I made a recent TV-Hi Adventure trip to Europe; and Dallas Townsend just back from his aircraft-carrier-Gemini-experience in mid-Atlantic.

Dallas has been here at this microphone while my wife and I have been with Lowell Jr. and family in Alaska.

In fact, we have flown down from the North ahead of schedule.

As you no doubt have often heard ^{it said,} much of the credit for what so many of us appear to do should go to able secretaries. This is true in government, in industry, and in almost every non-physical human activity.

In Nineteen Thirty during the "Great Depression" when that famous newspaper The New York World found itself

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in trouble, a young woman then an assistant to one of the top editors of The World -- Paul Palmer -- later to become one of the Senior editors of the then fast growing Reader's Digest -- his Mary Davis joined my staff. And since then, for all these thirty five years that I've been on the air Mary ran my New York Office.

Somethirty years ago she and a hundred other top New York and Washington secretaries organized a club that has become famous. Mary Davis was a charter member of The Seraphics. She managed my radio, TV, Cinerama and book mill so superbly and she had done so many things for so many people for somany years that I doubt whether there was a better known or more beloved secretary not only in America but in all the world. For Mary was known to the ends of the earth, wherever my work took me.

Then, while we ~~xxx~~ were in Alaska she suddenly departed on that journey of mystery to that realm of High Adventure of which we know so little.

And now ~~ta~~ the days news with which she had kept in such close touch for nearly half a century.

STEEL

Bethlehem Steel -- the nation's second largest producer -- boosting the price of some of its products; has touched off another quarrel between the Johnson Administration and big business. Only a few hours after Bethlehem's surprise announcement, the President's Council of Economic Advisers condemned the five-dollar-a-ton boost as "inflationary, and not in the public interest." However the statement, issued in Washington, did not include any reference to possible sanctions against Bethlehem.

SOVIETS. The Soviet Union has joined Communist North Viet Nam in turning a deaf ear ~~upon~~ current American moves to end the fighting in Viet Nam. Soviet Premier ~~Leonid~~ Kosygin, condemning what he called ~~the~~ "U.S. aggression" and demanding the immediate withdrawal of American troops and arms from South Viet Nam. But, he made NO mention of the present peace-seeking diplomatic efforts the United States is making in several world capitals.

In Washington, Administration officials made it clear that American bombing planes are withholding their attacks on the Communist North while awaiting some response from Hanoi. Informed sources in Paris say that U.S. Ambassador ~~Arthur~~ Goldberg told French President DeGaulle that the reason the bombings were halted was to determine whether the Communists really want peace negotiations. Tomorrow, Goldberg flies to London for talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

HARRIMAN.

Roving Ambassador Averell Harriman will fly to New Delhi Sunday to discuss the Vietnamese peace moves with Indian officials. India, Poland and Canada are members of the International Control Commission set up in Nineteen-Fifty-Four to oversee the Indochinese peace. Harriman was in Yugoslavia today for talks with Tito.

~~SECRET~~

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WAR. Heavy ground fighting was reported across South Viet Nam today--with government troops engaging about six hundred Viet Cong in a running battle near the Cambodian border near Saigon. Fighting, also reported nearly four-hundred miles farther north near Da Nang and Chu Lai where a regular North Vietnamese Army force has been on a rampage for a week. At Dalat, Viet Cong terrorists slipped through the guard around an American Army barracks and exploded two bombs. One American killed--ten others wounded.

~~17-3~~
HUMPHREY. Vice-President Hubert Humphrey brought his visit to the Philippines to an end today, calling for immediate Filipino aid to help the allied war effort in Viet Nam.

Before leaving on a flight to Formosa, Humphrey invited the new Filipino president--Ferdinand Marcos--to visit the

United States. Formosa ~~will be~~ the third stop on his current Far Eastern tour. South Korea, ~~will be~~ the fourth and last.

CASTRO. Juanita Castro--denouncing her brother, Fidel, as a traitor--warns that the forthcoming Communist conference in Havana means trouble for the Free World.

In a radio broadcast in Miami, Miss Castro said that representatives from about eighty African, Asian and Latin-American countries are reported in Havana to attend the meeting which begins in a few days.

She also said that if Cuba is not freed from the Castro regime in Nineteen-Sixty-Six, "it will be another year of hunger, terror and death for the Cuban People."

SKIERS

Three skiers -- who were lost in the Sierra Blanca region of Southern New Mexico -- were found today -- all in general good condition. But three others are still missing. They failed to come down off the ski slopes last night and presumably spent the night somewhere on a twelve-thousand foot mountain about sixteen miles northwest of Ruidoso. A foot of newly-fallen snow has covered their tracks. The temperatures, dropping to thirty degrees during the night. At least one-hundred-fifty skiers are taking part in the search.

FLOOD

Flood waters, sweeping through the Salt River bed in Phoenix today -- causing destruction the desert city hasn't seen in more than two decades. Unusually heavy rains during the past month -- and warm rainfall, melting much of the snow-pack on the watersheds, and causing a record December run-off in the usually dry Salt River bed. While here in New York, Warren, right now it's a balmy sixty-degrees in contrast to the fifteen below when we left Anchorage, Alaska's busy international airport.

WEATHER. Rain or snow will greet many Americans on the first day of the New Year, and the unusually mild winter weather in the Mid-west and East will come to an end. Rain is forecast from the southern plains across the Mississippi into Tennessee and Kentucky. Snow, or snow flurries, are expected ⁱⁿ the Pacific Northwest, the Rockies, upper Minnesota and northern New England.

But snow, rain, or shine, a Happy New Year to everyone, and, s'l'n g until -- next year.