

Thursday, June 20, 1974
John Hart

*Good Evening. This is John Hart sitting in
for Lowell Thomas.*

*President Nixon says he didn't make any secret
deals with Arabs or Israeli's in his trip to the Middle
East. Telling that to two dozen leading Congressmen
who he asked over to the White House today. And he
defended his offering atomic plants to Egypt by saying the
Russians or other countries would have done it, and with
not as many safeguards.*

TYRE

Israeli airplanes attacked guerilla targets near Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon today. Guerillas say twenty-seven refugees were killed. It was the fourth Israeli raid in three days, paying them back, Israel says, for the attack on an Israeli camp last week that killed three women.

COMMERCE

The Commerce Department figures Americans had the best income raises last month of any other month of the year. More money coming in, but not as fast as the known rate of inflation.

CONSOLIDATED

Consolidated Edison Company, a big utility company in the Eastern United States, filed a Two-Hundred-Eight Million Dollar antitrust suit against five oil companies, accusing them of conspiracy to control the supply of low sulphur oil from the Persian Gulf which Con Ed burns, and of conspiring to cause precipitous price rises in the price of the oil.

The oil companies being sued are, Standard of California, Texaco, Mobil, Chevron Oil Trading Company, and Texaco Overseas petroleum.

Texaco answered, saying the suit is spurious.

BUTZ

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz says he hopes Canada will start buying American beef again, and he told Congress he was ready to recommend more drastic action in the form of trade retaliation if Canada didn't. Later he called a news conference and said he wasn't trying to influence Canada's decision by the threat.

SILBERT

Senator Ervin says President Nixon should withdraw the name of Earl Silbert from nomination for U.S. Attorney in Washington D.C. Or otherwise, Ervin said, the Senate should wait to decide on the nomination until after the House impeachment inquiry is over. Silbert was in charge of the first Watergate prosecuting team. Ervin, said the President should have known the nomination would provoke an inquiry into his handling of the case - an inquiry Ervin's Judiciary Committee has been making.

Assistant Attorney General Henry Peterson told Ervin during the inquiry today, that the Senator was trying to re-try the Watergate case in the light of what is known now and wasn't known earlier.

IMPEACHMENT

The House Judiciary Committee got around to looking into the President's income taxes, today, and they got mixed reviews.

Republican Charles Wiggins of California saying, the President is like the driven snow on this.

Democrat Jack Brooks of Texas saying, he signed it, he let it go on and that might be an impeachable offense.

Chairman Peter Rodino says he hopes to have the Committee vote on impeachment by the end of July, which would take it to the full House by the middle of August.

The White House said the impeachment committee is violating due process on a daily constant basis - more criticism of leaks from the closed hearings.

VICE PRESIDENT FORD

Vice President Ford says the Watergate affair has the country spinning its wheels. He told the Jaycees in San Diego, we must go on living together, we must rebuild our economy, overcome inflation, tap new energy, provide new housing, improve health care, preserve the environment, and otherwise regenerate our life style.

The Vice President said we must renew our sense of morality from the highest levels of government to the most remote corners of inner city America - adding "if people shooting at each other can disengage, so can people who are shouting at each other."

EDWARD SANDERS

Edward Sanders of Riverdale, Georgia had a motorcycle accident late Sunday. He was declared dead, and somebody asked for his kidneys. Surgeons were about to remove them when Edward's hand twitched. They stopped. He is clinging to life. And his family doesn't want to talk about it.

A story from Lowell Thomas after this message.

ERIE CANAL

Hello Everybody. One of the great achievements of early American history was the construction of the Erie Canal, remember? - which not only bound together the fledgling nation - but paved the way for massive Western migration; a story now graphically told in a new book - "Stars in the Water" by George Condon.

The cost of that Erie Canal - Seven Million Dollars. In those days - a big sum. But it stretched, in all, three hundred and sixty-three miles - from Lake Erie to the Hudson River; the commerce it spurred - far surpassing that of the Suez and Panama Canals combined; the whole job it took over seven years to build.

One reason - a unique fringe benefit: A barrel of whiskey was placed every hundred yards or so and when the digging was completed up to that point - the workers all shared a dipper or two. Another hundred yards - another barrel of whiskey. And so it went - till it was so long until tomorrow.

**John Hart sitting in for Lowell Thomas,
reporting for CBS news.**