

L.T. BUICK, FISHER. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1965

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Ho Chi Minh of Communist North Vietnam is quoted tonight as having expressed a "strong desire" for a peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese war. Also -- that he's willing "to go anywhere" to meet anyone -- to talk peace; without first requiring withdrawal of American troops -- or invoking any of the other prior conditions he has called for in the past. This apparent turn about in Communist policy as a result of a recent conversation with Italian Foreign Minister Fanfani was made public today by the U.S. State Department.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk -- skeptical of the offer -- adds however, that he would "be pleased" -- as he put it -- to discuss the matter further. But, the next move is up to Hanoi, said he.

VIET NAM FOLLOW PEACE

In the meantime a small bomb exploded today in Saigon - in a truck filled with American soldiers. Twelve ~~of them~~ wounded - two in serious ^{ly,} ~~condition at last~~ report.

The bomb - planted by a Communist saboteur, - in the fourth consecutive day of Communist terror tactics - in the capital of South Viet Nam.

The sudden wave of ~~terror~~ terrorism - apparently part of a "bombs and bullets" campaign against Americans, - ordered by the political arm of the Viet Cong - as part of the observance of the Fifth Anniversary - of their so-called "national liberation front."

SPACE

The record-setting Gemini-Seven today streaked into its fourteenth and final day in orbit, with astronaut Borman and Lovell -- cheerfully reporting that they "feel a lot better," and hope for perfect landing tomorrow morning, in the Atlantic.

At the manned Space Center in Houston -- first release today of a breathtaking series of pictures, taken by astronauts Schirra and Stafford of the Gemini-Six -- during Wednesday's historic rendezvous in space.

These the first close-up pictures ever taken by one spacecraft -- of another in full orbit. And this by the way comes on the ~~xxx~~⁹ Sixty-second anniversary -- of the Wright Brothers first flight -- at Kitty Hawk.

RHODESIA

In London -- the government of Britain tonight ordered an oil embargo against Rhodesia. The toughest move it has ~~made~~ yet taken - against the rebel regime of Premier Ian Smith. With the United States expected to follow suit - before the week is out.

^{is} This one sanction ^{they think} that could cripple the Rhodesian economy, ^{By} cutting off supplies of oil, gasoline and ~~lubricants~~ lubricants -- that are the lifeblood of Rhodesian industry.

Meanwhile, in Bern - another telling blow against the rebellious colony. The Swiss government today issuing an unprecedented order - that will tie up virtually all Rhodesian money in Switzerland.

This coupled with a Swiss arms embargo - against Rhodesia, ^{Along} with export controls - that will prevent the flow of Rhodesian goods through Switzerland.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for giving -- as any child can tell us. Also a time for taking -- as any policeman can tell us. In fact, the annual yuletide crime wave in the United States and Europe -- already well under way, with a bank robbery -- in Newark, New Jersey. A truck hijacking in Paris -- where bandits escaped with nearly two hundred thousand dollars worth of pure gold. Also -- a forty-two thousand dollar gem theft in London. The eighth jewel robbery there since November -- with total loot estimated at more than a million dollars.

And -- theft of two golden chalices -- valued at fifteen hundred dollars -- from a Catholic church in Columbus, Ohio. But they were later returned by a conscience-stricken thief. Along with a brief note that said: "Merry Christmas. P.S. I'm sorry."

STRIKE

What must surely rank as one of the strangest strikes in history - was called today by a Catholic priest. Father Peter O'Reilly ordering a walkout at St. John's University in New York - one of the nation's largest Catholic universities. To begin January third - at the end of Christmas vacation.

~~The scheduled strike~~ ^{This} in protest against the dismissal of twenty-three faculty members in the past two days, ~~As~~ the culmination of teacher demands - for more say - in ~~exam~~ academic policy of the University.

50 The fired faculty members - all members of the United Federation of College Teachers. As is Father O'Reilly - President of the St. John's local, ~~who also~~ called on professors who are not members of the union - to refuse to cross picket lines, ~~In~~ the interest - said he - of "freedom."

ANTARCTICA

From ~~an ice cap~~ ^{the} Antarctica ^{ice cap} - news today of America's newest scientific outpost, in what is perhaps the bleakest and most remote area - on the face of the earth.

The site - about six hundred miles from the South Pole - in the general direction of Madagascar. Where an advance party of four scientists and four Navy men - have been landed ~~in~~ by ski plane on an eleven thousand foot plateau. There to build a weather station - also to study a number of phenomena associated with the earth's magnetic field.

The camp - about a thousand miles from McMurdo - the main American base in Antarctica. ~~Far~~ ^{And even cut off} ~~away~~ from McMurdo - for eight months of the year.

The men who will live there - completely isolated from the outside world - except for radio.

JAPAN FOLLOW ANTARTICA

Oh yes, and Japan is in the grip tonight of one of its worst cold waves in years. An Arctic blast from Siberia -- sweeping down with icy gales and blizzards.

Temperatures plunging sub-zero all the way to Tokyo; tying up transportation and communications.

DISNEY

Walt Disney productions today won a unique government contract -- to build a thirty-five million dollar ski resort in the High Sierra. Selection of the Disney organization over five other bidders has just been announced, in Washington, by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.

This super ski resprt --to be known as "Alpine Village" -- in the hitherto isolated Mineral King area of California's Sequoia National Forest -- next door to Sequoia National Park. I wonder why they don't call it just "Sequoia" -- or how about "Sierra Village"? The location is superb enough to stand on its own-- not lean on the Alps!

At any rate, actual construction is expected to begin in two or three years, with the Disney contract -- to run for a period of thirty years -- the government eventually sharing -- in all receipts.

Many years ago, Lowell Jr. and I made our way into the Mineral King country and found it one of the most exciting

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parts of North America. So It's a special thrill for us to hear that Walt Disney is going to open up this, perhaps the most spectacular part of the High Sierra.

DANCE

Something of a furor today in Sweden - over the showing of an ultra-modern ballet - on nationwide television. Here's why.

The performance - by an American dance company - featuring four men and three women. Who slowly undressed - piled their clothes on the floor - and then danced around on a large piece of paper. Eventually tearing the paper into little pieces - which they littered about the stage.

The furor - not about nudity - no, indeed.

The Swedes - who apparently are used to that sort of thing - calling the nude performance ~~sin~~ in itself "quite boring".

Why then - the fuss? It's just that they can't stand - litterbugs.