

Good Evening Everybody:

Usually, Christmas Day, news is light. Fortunately this is true today. So I am going to attempt it with a vain attempt, I'm sure - to describe the scene around us here on this South-Western Alaskan Coast; here at the head of Cook Inlet.

It's a world of dry powder snow, not a breath of wind, temperature around Zero, but along with this we have a natural phenomenon I doubt you will find anywhere in the world except perhaps on the coast of Nova Scotia overlooking the Bay of Fundy. All because of the tremendous tides here in Cook Inlet and Turnagain Arm, tides second only to the record tide for which the Bay of Fundy is famous.

Because of the unusual power of these tides, even in the severest weather - when this arm of the North Pacific is full of ice - as it is now - it never freezes over. So, Anchorage, luckily, is an open port all year round.

With open water in Cook Inlet in mid-Winter this means

the air above the inlet has to be warmer than air over the adjoining land. All of which, creates a unique phenomenon. A low mist forms over the sea, and this mist drifts over Anchorage and the nearby pine and birch forests. This mist is not smog. It's just mist. And when it settles over all this part of the world you get the phenomenon you are unlikely ever to see anywhere else.

It's not heavy ice crystals such as the ice wonderland you sometimes have when rain drops and sleet form on trees. Nor is it as heavy even as new powder snow. It's so light and fluffy that if you bump a tree it all showers down on top of you - lighter than talcon powder, glistening tiny white crystals. A true fairyland.

Of course if there were any wind down it all would come. But for nearly a week now there hasn't even been a breeze up here. So here we are in a world of absolute White - that is, when the sun is out. Here where we are sunrise over the Chugach Mts. this morning was around Nine-Fifteen; with

sunset at two-forty-five this afternoon. For that total Arctic darkness you have heard so much about, you would have to go up to the Arctic coast, and that's only some seven-hundred - miles north of us.

But let's leave Alaska and see what's going on in other parts of the world.

SEABEDS

THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THAT VAST, UNEXPLORED-DOMAIN THAT LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 35 NATIONS WILL MAKE A STUDY OF THE EARTH'S SEABEDS AND OCEAN FLOORS - PARTICULARLY THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES INVOLVED. THE ~~THE~~ MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND OF MALTA HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MINERAL AND OTHER RESOURCES OF ALL SUCH UNDERSEA LANDS BE DECLARED THE COMMON PROPERTY OF MANKIND - TO BE INTERNATIONALIZED - BARRED FOREVER TO MILITARY USES - AND EXPLOITED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL. UNDER ^{the} MALTA PLAN, PROFITS ESTIMATED IN THE BILLIONS WOULD BE USED TO WIPE OUT THE SCOURGE OF POVERTY IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

ELECTIONS

A NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL GROUP - KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONGRESS - SAYS ~~THEY~~ NEXT YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION MAY BE SO CLOSE ^{It will} ~~THAT IT WILL~~ HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THIS MIGHT HAPPEN IF FORMER GOVERNOR WALLACE OF ALABAMA AND HIS THIRD PARTY MOVEMENT WINS ENOUGH ELECTORAL VOTES TO KEEP EITHER OF THE MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES FROM HAVING A MAJORITY. IN THAT EVENT, THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WOULD BE THROWN INTO THE HOUSE FOR A DECISION. ^R IN ALL CONTESTS - THE GROUP SAYS - VIETNAM WILL BE THE CENTRAL ISSUE. ^{Moreover} ~~AND~~ IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE ~~THAT~~ THE REPUBLICANS MAY GAIN THE 31 SEATS THEY NEED TO CONTROL ~~THE~~ HOUSE.

EISENHOWER

FORMER PRESIDENT ~~DUKE~~ EISENHOWER SAYS ALL POLITICIANS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO RUN FOR OFFICE UNDER A CODE OF ETHICS THAT WOULD REQUIRE FULL DISCLOSURE OF THEIR PERSONAL FINANCIAL HOLDINGS. WRITING IN THE READER'S DIGEST, ^{the Ex-President} ~~EISENHOWER~~ APPEARS AT ODDS WITH ^{some} LEADERS OF HIS OWN PARTY - INCLUDING SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADERS EVERETT DIRKSEN, WHO OPPOSES FULL DISCLOSURE OF PRIVATE FINANCES. ^{Sen.} BUT EISENHOWER ARGUES THAT "IF A MAN HAS NOTHING TO CONCEAL, WHY SHOULD HE OBJECT TO A CERTIFIED ACCOUNTING OF HIS FINANCIAL STATUS." THIS, AS PART OF THE PRICE FOR HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE

VIETNAM

AMERICAN FIGHTING TROOPS HAVE RESUMED FIGHTING IN VIETNAM AT THE END OF A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CHRISTMAS TRUCE - SAID TO HAVE BEEN BROKEN 104 TIMES. AN AMERICAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON SAYS "NORMAL OPERATIONS" ARE UNDERWAY ONCE AGAIN.

ACCIDENTS

CHRISTMAS WAS MARRED BY TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK WHERE FIREMEN RECOVERED THE BODIES OF THREE CREWMEN - WHO WERE TRAPPED IN A FIRE ON BOARD A NORWEGIAN FREIGHTER MOORED IN THE HUDSON RIVER. IN LOUISIANA, EIGHT CREWMEN WERE ~~SEVERELY~~/ SEVERELY BURNED WHEN TWO BARGES COLLIDED WITH AN OIL TANKER IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. 47 OTHER CREW MEMBERS ON THE FLAMING TANKER ESCAPED INJURY. AND IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, NEARLY 600 PERSONS WERE ROUTED FROM THEIR HOMES BY DEADLY CHLORINE GAS FUMES ESCAPING FROM A CHEMICAL PLANT WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

HOLIDAY

MORE THAN 700 PILGRIMS CROWDED INTO THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM FOR THE TRADITIONAL MIDNIGHT MASS ON THE LEGENDARY SIGHT OF THE STABLE WHERE CHRIST WAS BORN. LIKE MARY AND JOSEPH ON THAT NIGHT LONG AGO, HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES WERE TURNED AWAY FROM BETHLEHEM'S OVERCROWDED HOTELS - LEFT TO SHELTER THEMSELVES AS BEST THEY COULD IN THE CHILLY AIR. IN ~~ROSE~~^{VA}, POPE PAUL WISHED THE WORLD A "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" TODAY - BUT ~~HE~~ WARNED AGAINST WHAT HE CALLED "CONFUSING HAPPINESS WITH CAREFREE LIVING". IN DELIVERING HIS ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS BLESSING TO THRONGS IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE, THE POPE MADE NO REFERENCE TO HIS RECENT VIETNAM PEACE APPEAL OR HIS "MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRESIDENT JOHNSON SPENT CHRISTMAS DAY ~~AT~~ THE WHITE HOUSE WITH MEMBERS OF HIS EVER EXPANDING FAMILY; BUT HE IS EXPECTED TO FLY TO TEXAS AND SPEND THE REMAINDER OF ~~THE~~^{the LBI} HOLIDAY SEASON AT ~~HIS~~ RANCH.

OVERSEAS IN LONDON, THOUSANDS OF CAROL SINGERS TOURED THE STREETS GATHERING MONEY FOR CHARITY. DOWN IN CENTRAL AMERICA,

HOLIDAY - 2

ANOTHER TRUCKLOAD OF TOYS AND CLOTHING WENT TO THE TOWN OF ZAMORANO IN HONDURAS - WHERE A LITTLE BOY TOLD A PEACE CORPSMAN FROM MICHIGAN THAT SANTA CLAUS[!] NEVER CAME TO ZAMORANO.

~~BUT~~ CHRISTMAS WAS GRIM FOR 45 CREWMEN ABOARD A STRICKEN BRITISH TANKER ADRIFT IN THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC. ~~AND IT WAS~~ ^{Also an} EQUALLY GRIM HOLIDAY FOR 20,000 NAVAJO INDIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN - SNOWBOUND IN DORMITORIES AT SCHOOL^s ON THEIR RESERVATION.

PERHAPS THE BIGGEST CHRISTMAS HARDLUCK STORY OF ALL WAS THAT OF A THREE YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS FOUND TODAY WALKING ALONG A HIGHWAY SOUTH OF OTTUMWA, IOWA, CLAD ONLY IN A PAIR OF PAJAMAS IN TWENTY DEGREE WEATHER. LITTLE GARY IRWIN SAID HE THOUGHT EVERYONE AT HOME HAD "GONE OFF AND LEFT HIM". BUT THAT WAS A MISTAKE. HIS PARENTS ^{merely} HAPPENED TO BE ~~TRIPPLE~~ AWAY FROM HOME AT THE TIME.

NOEL

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF OF WITTENBERG COLLEGE IN OHIO SHOULD WIN THE PRIZE FOR HAVING THE MOST UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS CARD OF THE YEAR - IF THERE IS SUCH A PRIZE. ACTUALLY THIS CHRISTMAS CARD WAS IN THE FORM OF A PUZZLE. LISTED ON THE CARD WERE ALL THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET FROM A TO Z EXCEPT ONE - THE LETTER "L" WAS THE ONLY LETTER THAT WAS MISSING. [—]NOEL - DO YOU GET IT, WARREN? NOEL.