

L.T. OLDS - MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1963

Good Evening Everybody:

One thing about that announcement in

Palm Beach - to many it comes as quite a surprise.

The advance surmise was that it was to be an announce-
ment regarding some affair of state. Laos - maybe.

Or, the President's forthcoming trip to Europe.

Instead, it's about the First Lady. She's
expecting. President and Mrs. Kennedy to become
parents for the third time. Another Kennedy in the
White House.

STEEL

The first major steel company to break the line on prices - Republic Steel. The smallest of America's "big three", announcing - a selective hike averaging five-dollars-and-thirty-four ~~■~~ cents a ton. Republic thus becomes the third company - to raise the price of steel. Following in the wake of - Wheeling Steel and Lukens Steel. ~~and~~ ^{Also} Pittsburgh Steel - goes along with them.

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There of course some

Everyone ~~is~~ ^{as to} wondering ^{what} the President ^{will do,} ~~intends~~

~~to do.~~ Action on Capitol Hill - already underway. Senator Douglas of Illinois, telling newsmen - that the House-Senate Economic Committee is going to investigate steel prices.

KENNEDY

The presidential calendar at the vacation White House in Palm Beach, Florida - shows how many things the Chief Executive has to keep in hand at the same time. Let's take a look - at a few items.

John McCone, head of Central Intelligence, flew in from Washington to brief the President on the world situation - as it looks from his desk at the C.I.A. Among the questions that come up at a session like this: are the Russians about to revive the Berlin crisis? Will - or can - Khrushchev patch up his quarrel with Mao Tse-Tung? Which of them is provoking that Civil War in Laos? And so on.

Probably Algeria was discussed - that shooting of Foreign Minister Khemisti. We know Mr. Kennedy took the time to write a letter of condolence to Premier Ben Bella.

Then, there were appointments - to make. Frank Smith of Mississippi, renominated to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Frank Suohy of Jersey City - to the Customs Department in New York.

Plus the usual tasks - connected with the presidential office, examining reports from his aides, issuing executive orders, scheduling more briefings by top advisors, and so on.

For example, the U.S. Ambassador to France is due at Palm Beach tomorrow. Charles "Chip" Bohlen to report on what has been termed "De Gaulle's charm offensive". Is the President of France really becoming more conciliatory? Or is De Gaulle simply using different tactics to reach his old objectives? A typical day for the President. That is, a crowded calendar even when he's on vacation.

"THRESHER"

The last message from the sunken submarine "Thresher" indicates that her skipper was trying to straighten her in the water. And - having some kind of trouble doing it.

So testified by Commander Stanley Hecker of Brooklyn - at the Board of Inquiry in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Commander Hecker, ^{who} was aboard the escort ship - in communication with the "Thresher," ~~he~~ says ~~that~~ he received the last message - about the sub emptying water out of the ballast tanks, ~~and~~ ~~he~~ recalls that the message included the words - "experiencing minor problems." Then - silence.

Did the "minor problems" become major - in a split second? What was it that overwhelmed the "Thresher" so quickly - that the man on the sub's telephone couldn't send a word to the escort ship on the surface?

~~This question for the Navy board investigating the loss of the "Thresher"~~

FUND

Meanwhile, the wife of a Navy submariner is doing something practical about the tragedy.

Mrs Louise Sebesta of Cleveland - starting a fund for the families of the men who went down aboard the "Thresher".

Frank Sebesta is a sonarman - attached to the Polaris submarine, Thomas Jefferson. Louise says she knows as well as anyone the problem of Navy families. And she hopes that the public will join her - in raising money. As she puts it - sympathy is not enough, the families of the Thresher victims need financial help".

A host of Americans will want to contribute - to help those left behind by the crew of the "Thresher". Funds now being collected by - Louise Sebesta of Cleveland, Ohio. Louise S-e-b-e-s-t-a.

GENERAL MOTORS

The agreement that has just been reached between General Motors and the United Auto Workers - calls ~~for~~ for something new in labor - management relations. Namely - preliminary discussions a year before the gm bargaining over a new contract. So decided by Walter Reuther for the union - and Vice President Louis Seaton for G. M.

Purpose- needless to say - to head off strikes.

Make sure that the real issues are on the table - when contract-signing time arrives.

LONDON

Thirty-five thousand "ban-the-bomb marchers invaded London today - trying to break into the grounds at Buckingham Palace, pushing toward the Houses of Parliament, and staging sit-downs on the steps of Whitehall.

With a flurry of street fighting the bobbies hustled a hundred or so of the rioters off to the lockup.

The rioters even made a top-secret document on the subject - the hideaway to be used by Her Majesty's government in case of a nuclear war.

CANADA

The conversation was brief today when the Prime Minister of Canada received a visit from the Leader of the opposition. John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson - having little to say to one another. Much has been said - by the Canadian people.

But it did take Diefenbaker and Pearson twenty minutes to say what they had to say about the exchange of offices. John Diefenbaker now leader of the opposition. Lester Pearson - Canada's new Prime Minister.

INDIA

I wonder how the following will go down in Peking? The Indian government announcing that India is going to build - jet fighters and missiles - and - with the aid of the Soviet Union. Russian technicians and Russian material to be put to work in Indian factories. Turning out the most modern armament of technological warfare.

The jet fighters and missiles - to be in operation two years from now. By which time the Himalayan conflict with Red China may just be reaching the critical stage - according to New Delhi. Will the Russian weapons be on hand in time to turn the tide in the Himalayas? Wonder what Peking thinks of this announcement?

VOLCANO

Remember when Charles Darwin, on "The Beagle" visited the Galapagos Islands, where he found various new animals? At that time, Darwin thought Mount Chico, the volcano on Isabella Island, was extinct. But, today - Mount Chico blew its top. Rivers of molten lava - surging out of the crater volcanic ash - falling over the island like rain. Dense clouds of smoke - towering into the sky. The inhabitants fleeing - to the other islands.

Darwin may have been right - about evolution, Dick. But how wrong he was about Mount Chico on the Galapagos, off Ecuador.

SMUGGLER

When Enzo Fantoni of Milan, Italy, was convicted of smuggling - the fine came to twenty-five thousand dollars - in lira. Enzo to pay in monthly installments. Plunking down many Lira every first of the month.

Today he explained to another judge - how he did it. At his old trade - smuggling, via the Alps into Italy - without benefit to customs. Until the carabinieri caught him.

Enzo indignant - to find himself in court for a second time. Said the smuggler of Milan "Why, I was just trying to pay off that fine for smuggling".