

KENNEDY

L.T.-Olas. Wednesday, March 22, 1961.

(Given by Walter Cronkite.)

The White House has announced - a shift in this week's Presidential News Conference. In fact - two shifts. From today - to tomorrow. From four P.M., Washington time - to six P.M. Moreover, this News Conference - will be carried over radio and TV.

The object, of course, - is to give President Kennedy as big an audience as possible. The inference being - that the President will have some dramatic announcement to make. Subject - Laos.

That bedeviled nation of South East Asia - is causing grave concern inside the Administration. ~~Today~~ the President <sup>HAS</sup> ordered increased American aid - to the pro-Western government of Laos. At the same time, source close to the White House believed that the next step will be - an appeal to the members of <sup>A</sup>SETO to help save Laos from Communist aggression.

Presumably we'll learn a lot more about all this - when President Kennedy meets newsmen tomorrow.

SETO follow KENNEDY

The Allies in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization - aren't just sitting around waiting for the American President to speak. In Bangkok, Thailand, their delegates have begun to formulate - a common military strategy. Deciding how to go about it - if they have to ~~commit~~ <sup>commit</sup> their armed forces to a campaign in Laos.

## CONGO

In the Congo, the bone of contention at the moment - is Matadi. The Leopoldville Government has offered to let UN officials - back into the seaport. But only on pain of paying duties - on all UN cargo unloaded from incoming freighters. As a result, the UN hasn't accepted the ~~ix~~ invitation to send representatives into Matadi - even though ships are said to be arriving <sup>already</sup> from the High Seas.

## ATOMIC

The Geneva Conference held a session today - lasting exactly twenty-three minutes. Just enough time to let Soviet Delegate Tsarapkin make it clear - that he's not interested in the new Western proposals. He simply shrugged aside - Arthur Dean's offer to let Soviet scientists inspect the mechanism of America's nuclear devices.

Tsarapkin devoted his few remarks - mainly to France. Paris is not represented at Geneva - which gives Moscow a good pretext to say "Nyet." The pretext that an agreement would be meaningless - as long as the French are exploding Atomic bombs in the Sahara.

## CONGRESS

The two Bills that went from Capitol Hill to the White House today - don't give President Kennedy everything he asked for. But both are good enough from the Administration point of view - to merit the Presidential signature.

The Unemployment Compensation Bill - involves a billion dollars. Covers more than three million Americans - who ~~could receive~~ <sup>will receive</sup> thirteen weeks of extra benefits, while they're looking for work. And, <sup>IT</sup> could start ~~the~~ affecting the National economy - within two weeks. Government checks are expected to start moving - by then.

The Farm Bill - does two things the Administration requested. It cuts acreage under cultivation - and raises price supports on basic crops. It's part of the Administration Plan - to solve the problem of agricultural surpluses.

The Senate did one more thing - for President Kennedy. Approving his brother-in-law - for a top government job. Sargeant Shriver - to ~~be~~ head of the ~~Kennedy~~ Peace Corps.

# ECONOMY

The Administration probably won't use a temporary tax cut - to beat the recession. So says Walter Heller - Chief Economic Adviser to the President. The Heller statement is a sign of optimism - that the recession is on the way out. Our economy evidently doesn't need - that kind of shot in the arm. Doesn't need a tax reduction - to let consumers have more money to spend.

## TRIAL

All five defendants in London's espionage trial drew stiffer penalties - than did Klaus Fuchs, eleven years ago. The scientist convicted of spying for the Russians - was sentenced to fourteen years in jail. Today, the lightest sentence handed down in London's historic Old Bailey - was fifteen years.

That much of a penalty - for Ethel Gee and Henry Houghton. They worked at the Portland Naval Base - and had planned to be married. They had other plans, too - according to the prosecution. They were found guilty of gathering secret information about the British Navy - and, passing it on to their co-defendants, ~~in this case.~~

The two Americans prosecuted - were sentenced to twenty years each. The pair known in England as Peter and Helen Kroger - actually, Morris and Dora Cohen of New York. It was in their home - that the incriminating evidence was found. The short-wave radio - and so on.

Finally, the man accused of being the Mastermind of the Espionage Ring. Gordon Lonsdale - whom Scotland Yard describes as a Soviet Intelligence Agent. Lord

Parker excoriated Lonsdale - from the bench. Terming this defendant - "a professional spy." Then sentencing him - to twenty-five years in a British prison.

was found guilty of stealing a government document - which he wrote himself.

Released to work at the Pentagon. One of his assignments was to work as a top-secret defense department report - called "The application of satellites in Meteorological Reconnaissance". This report disappeared from the files - and the FBI found it in Bellamy's possession. Along with two hundred other classified documents.

Throughout his trial, Bellamy insisted - he was an spy. His defense, proving irrefragable - on that point. His story was, and is, that he intended to prepare an overall survey to show his Pentagon superiors that they were being "misinformed".

Agreed, he was found guilty - of illegality in passing classified documents. And the critical document in the case - was the one authored by Arthur Bellamy - now designated as such.



DOCUMENT follow TRIAL

The strange case of Arthur Roddey - ended in a Virginia Court Room today. No, the strange part - isn't the sentence of eight years. It's the fact that Roddey was found guilty of stealing a government document - which he wrote himself.

He used to work - at the Pentagon. One of his assignments was to draw up a top-secret Defence Department report - called "The Application of Satelites in Meterological Reconnaissance." This report disappeared from the files - and the FBI found it in Roddey's possession. Along with two hundred other classified documents.

Throughout his trial, Roddey insisted - he was no spy. <sup>Anyway</sup> /his defense, proving impregnable - on that point. His story was, and is, that he intended to prepare an overall survey - to show his Pentagon superiors that they were being "misinformed".

Anyway, he was found guilty - of illegally possessing classified documents. And the critical document in the case - was the one authored by Arthur Roddey. Any document in your pauch pack, Dick.

## FLIGHT

I'm sure Lowell would want me to say something about - the death of Colonel Leslie Arnold. The Colonel, as you may have read in the obituaries - took part in the first flight around the world, back in Nineteen Twenty-Four.

Well, Lowell was the historian - of that colorful episode in the ~~history~~<sup>saga</sup> of aviation. His book "The First World Flight" - told how young Lieutenant Arnold teamed up with seven other officers in a four-plane bid to circle the globe. Two of the planes, crashed en route. The other two - made it. One, the old biplane - spanking~~new~~ it was, then - called "Chicago." Aboard the "Chicago" - Lieutenants Lowell Smith and Leslie Arnold.

They flew from Seattle, across the Pacific, Asia, Europe, the Atlantic, the U.S.A. - and back to Seattle. In later years, Colonel Arnold liked to point out - that today you can book the same itinerary at any Travel Bureau. But in Nineteen Twenty-Four, a year's planning - went into the project. The first world flight,

which was a rousing success partly because of - Lieutenant Leslie Arnold. The young aviator who went on to become a Colonel in the Air Force - and died yesterday at the age of sixty-six. Burial <sup>will be</sup> in Arlington Cemetery on Friday with full military honors. One of the Honorary Pallbearers - Lowell Thomas.