

L.T. SUSTAINING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A full-scale investigation -- underway today in New York; to determine the cause of that spectacular early-morning fire -- in the Jamaica section of the Borough of Queens. More important -- if possible prevent it ever happening again.

The fire -- as you may have heard -- one of the worst in memory in New York. Ignited by a gas main explosion -- it quickly enveloped an entire residential neighborhood; incinerating four blocks of buildings -- "like paper boxes," said ~~of~~⁹ firemen. With flames shooting more than four hundred feet into the air -- as if from an atom bomb.

When the fire was finally brought under control -- houses and apartment dwellings were completely gutted -- metal utility poles bent double from the heat -- and the area abounded in charred vehicles, including at least two

fire trucks.

Yet strangely -- indeed miraculously -- not a single known fatality -- or even a serious injury. The credit going to two policemen -- who saw the first explosion then raced from door to door; rousing some three hundred sleeping residents -- and telling them to get out -- but quick. Which they did.

CHINA

Latest word from Red China - a report today that more than a million workers have left their homes and jobs throughout the countryside; that they're now pouring into Peking -- to protest forced wage reductions; under Chairman Mao Tse Tung's so-called "cultural revolution".

Japanese correspondents at the scene - saying the situation may be on the verge of a showdown. Reporting that many of the workers - have already scuffled with Mao's Red guards; adding that Red officials fear the possibility of a major clash -- unless they can get the workers to go home.

At the same time - a brief air battle today over the Formosa Strait. Nationalist Chinese planes downing two Communist Migs -- in the first such clash in six years. China - watchers suggesting, ~~how~~ however - that Red leaders may have deliberately instigated the fight; in an effort to divert attention - from their growing troubles at home.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam - the major ground action again today - in that "Iron Triangle" north of Saigon. ~~Ft~~ The biggest allied push of the war - accounting for another forty-one Viet Cong dead; raising the Communist death toll - to more than two hundred and thirty ~~men~~ in less than a week.

The day marred, however, by another tragic mishap. When a number of artillery shells in a rolling barrage - somehow fell short. Exploding among advancing troops of the U S First Infantry, ~~Killing~~ Killing at least eight Americans - and wounding some thirty more. Almost as many casualties - as the Viet Cong themselves have been able to inflict during the entire action.

PARIS

West German Chancellor Kurt-Georg Kiesinger - a visitor today to Paris; for his first summit meeting - with French President DeGaulle.

After their first ninety-minute conference - both men expressing a determination to revive friendship and cooperation between France and Germany; after two years of relative coolness -- during the reign of Kiesinger's predecessor, Ludwig Erhard.

Kiesinger, for one, declaring: "The conversation this morning has given me the hope - that we can recover a good chunk of territory." DeGaulle, for his part, promising his guest: "You will always find our government -- fully ready to meet your intentions."

TOGO

The New Year less than two weeks old - and already another coup in Africa. Rebel army leaders today seizing power - in the ~~tiny~~^{small} West African state of Togo, Deposing President Nicholas Grunitzky - four years to the day - after his brother-in-law was assassinated in a similar takeover. The coup necessary - said an army spokesman - to "prevent an imminent civil war."

Thus, control of the government falling to thirty year old Lieutenant Colonel Etienne Eyadema; the same man who four years ago fatally shot Togo's first President -- Sylvanus Olympio -- to prevent him from seeking asylum in the U S Embassy.

NEWARK

The subject of the draft - much in the news today.

With
~~And so~~ - some pertinent remarks from draft Director Lewis Hershey - ~~during an appearance at the~~ Newark College of Engineering.

On the subject of college deferments - Hershey declaring; "the vast majority of students are able to give better service to their country - after college than before." On the subject of drafting women - ~~Hershey~~ ~~saying~~ he hopes it will never be necessary; because said he - it 'would mean we would be fighting for our lives."

Finally, a question as to why the United States needs a draft at all - when a country like Canada, for example can get along ~~very nicely~~ without it. Hershey's reply: "Canada can get along without the draft for one good reason -- they live next to us," - said he.

POSTAL

Plans for a thirteen percent increase in overseas postal rates -- announced today by U S Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien. The new rates - expected to take effect February fourteen.

Under the higher schedule -- the air mail rate to the Caribbean, for example, would increase from thirteen cents to fifteen cents per half ounce. To Europe - from fifteen to twenty cents. Although there would be no change in the twenty-five cent air mail rate to the rest of the world; ~~in~~ which includes, ~~of course~~ Viet Nam.

The increase needed - said O'Brien - to offset the current operating deficit of about Sixteen million a year. It's also seen as the possible prelude to a request to Congress later this year - for a ~~new~~ comparable increase in domestic rates, as well.

MOON FOLLOW CAPE KENNEDY

From Washington; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration today released a striking photograph -- of the surface of the Moon; taken last November by America's Lunar Orbiter-Two -- which is still up there circling the Moon.

The Photograph showing a fresh crater in the Moon's sea of Tranquility -- a crater differing from all the other craters in the area -- because it seems to have a pale halo around it.

The reason -- say space officials--because it was left by that Ranger-Eight space probe -- that crashed on the Moon a year ago last February. First "eye-witness" evidence -- of man-made scars on the Moon.

Incidentally, another series of photos showing that a forty-foot rock -- recently rolled down the side of another, larger moon crater. Why -- they can't tell.

NEPAL

Anchorage, Alaska, as you no doubt have heard has become one of the major aerial crossroads of the world. Most of the military traffic back and forth from Viet Nam goes through Anchorage. Also air travel between the Far East and Europe, and our own American lines from Seattle and the West Coast. So, in Anchorage you meet people from everywhere.

At breakfast at the Captain Cook Hotel a rugged looking gentleman came over ~~to me~~ and introduced himself ~~and gave his name~~ as Jim Stone, in Alaska to bid on a big construction project -- power lines.

~~But~~ ^{He} spoke to me because he knew of my interest in Nepal where he said he had spent several years building a cableway across the lower Himalayas from India ~~to~~ Kathmandu, the Nepalese Shangri-la. ~~But~~, King ^{also} Mahendra _^ had other assignments for him such as transforming one of the great palaces of Kathmandu so it would be

properly equipped for a visit from Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. The King also had him put a special air strip in the best hunting area of Nepal, the Terai; with a temporary village for the Queen and her party. Two hundred elephants were there to give the Queen a special salute.

He also said the King asked him to have his men paint, white, all the miles of buildings between the airport and the center of the city of Katnmandu so Queen Elizabeth would get a better impression of the Nepalese capital.

And now Jim Stone is back in America running a ~~BBW~~ construction firm, operating out of Spokane and Seattle.

LAWRENCE

News of a mining discovery with possible world-wide implications -- comes today from the rolling plains of Kansas, of all places. A team of geologists from the University of Kansas - finding heavy concentrations of copper bearing minerals! in the vicinity of Lawrence -- in the South-Central part of that state.

The find resulting from a government-sponsored search for copper -- which is currently ~~at~~ in short supply throughout the world. Quality and quantity of the copper deposits - still under study. However, test samples show ~~ing~~ copper concentrations - up to six point six percent. Sounds like a bonanza.

ATHENS

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From Ohio University, ~~of~~ Athens, Ohio -- a fashion prediction today from Mollie Parnis - one of ~~the~~ New York's leading clothes designers. A prediction - of more and more mini-skirts. Or should it be - less and less?

At any rate, ~~no~~ Miss Parnis telling a coed fashion forum - that 'hems are going to be up a lot more -- before they ever start to come back down." Because - said she - "the mini-skirt is natural - it's functional - and that's the purpose of clothes; to move with ease -- for the busy woman."

So the mini-skirt is fine - up to a point, we're told; and that point - is age thirty. "Any ~~woman~~ woman over thirty who wears a mini-skirt -- ~~why, she~~ ought to be arrested"-- says Mollie Parnis.

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