

Tues, Apr. 1st. '69.

~~From the heartland of America a final tribute~~  
- the final tribute.  
~~today~~ To the man from Abilene, Thousands upon thousands  
- turning out at depots, railroad crossings, small town  
sidings; paying their last respects to Dwight David  
Eisenhower - on his ~~long~~ journey home, to Kansas.

At first - the ~~Eisenhower~~ family had hoped the  
General's ~~funeral~~ train <sup>might</sup> ~~would~~ pass quietly - perhaps almost  
unnoticed. However, as the crowds swelled across  
Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio - it became apparent that  
others, too, must share in the grief. At Cincinnati -  
an American flag was finally placed on the baggage car -  
bearing ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> body of the general who had been President.  
The family further authorized release  
- of the train's full route. It was hardly necessary, <sup>far on</sup> ~~though~~.  
~~On~~ ahead - thousands more were already waiting at track  
side - <sup>right</sup> ~~clear~~ across Indiana, Illinois, Missouri; <sup>and Kansas,</sup> ~~waiting~~  
to say their last good-byes - to the man they called Ike.

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Back in the nation's capital - President Nixon conferred today with a dozen world leaders still in Washington. Beginning with Italian Premier Rumor at ten this morning - ending with former Japanese Premier Kishi early this evening. Others in between including: Vice President Ky of South Vietnam - Chancellor Kiesinger of West Germany - Prime Minister Gorton of Australia - the Shah of ~~Shahs, the Shah of~~ Iran - President Bourguiba of Tunisia and so on.

Subjects discussed covering a broad range of issues - said the White House. Adding that some of these talks - were an extension of conversations begun on the President's recent European trip.

Tomorrow - the President and his family fly ~~to~~ to Abilene; to join in the final farewell - to General Eisenhower.

CAPITOL HILL

*On Capitol Hill - a surprise announcement today from Defense Secretary Melvin/Laird. Telling a House Committee of plans to scale down - U S B-52 raids in support of the American war effort in Vietnam. This - said he - in keeping with orders of President Nixon - to cut defense costs.*

*Next question: does this represent - a U. S. de-escalation of the war? Laird replying, in effect - not necessarily. Further emphasizing that if the war "heated up" again - so would the bombing.*

VIETNAM FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

On the other side of the globe - another hopeful sign. With South Vietnamese President Thieu hinting strongly today - that secret peace talks may be in progress even now.

Nevertheless, the war continues - with the current Red offensive heading into it's fortieth day - and no let up in sight. At the same time - an announcement that the nuclear powered U. S. aircraft carrier Enterprise - biggest ship afloat - has just returned for its fourth tour of duty in Vietnamese waters.

UNITED NATIONS

*At the United Nations - a split today in the ranks of the "big four:" with the U.S. and Britain - harshly critical of Israel's air raid last week on the Jordanian town of Es-salt. However, refusing to support an Afro-Asian resolution in the Security Council - condemning Israel outright.*

*On the other hand - France and Russia both ~~did~~ support ~~ing~~ the resolution. Thereby casting a pall - on the outlook for forthcoming "big four" talks on the Mid-East.*

BEIRUT

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Meanwhile, Jordan's <sup>suggested</sup> ~~young~~ King ~~Hussein~~ --  
was a visitor today at Beirut. <sup>Hussein</sup> Conferring briefly with  
Lebanese President Charoles Helou - also, Premier Rashid  
Karam. Later flying to Paris - en route to talks next  
week with President <sup>Nixon</sup> ~~Hussein~~.

King Hussein to be the first Arab head of state - to  
confer with the President since his inauguration. And  
he emphasized today ~~at Beirut~~ - that his trip is "in the  
service of the Arab cause" - all of it.

NUEVA ROSITA

Disaster at Nueva Rosita, ~~NEW~~ Mexico. ~~As~~

You may have heard by now <sup>of the</sup> - ~~a number of~~ <sup>the</sup> gas explosions  
in two rural coal mines. Trapping about one hundred and  
fifty men - deep within the earth.

Later - a thousand rescue workers - men,  
women and children - family and friends of the trapped  
miners - scratching at the earth - with bare hands, some  
of them - in a pitiful attempt to effect a rescue. However,  
mine officials now say - that all are feared lost.

OTTAWA

What's it like living in Canada - in the shadow of the richest, mightiest, most all-pervasive power on earth? That question was put recently - to Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau. And his answer - as follows:

"Living next to the United States - is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant" - said he. Adding: "No matter how friendly and even tempered is the beast - one is affected by every twitch and every grunt."



COLLEGE

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A new twist on an old joke - ~~comes~~ today from College, Alaska; where the University of Alaska is getting ready to sell "ice boxes to Eskimos" - at a price of about Twenty-Five Thousand bucks apiece.

Even at that - it's a bargain; for these "ice boxes" - which are now in the process of final testing - are built to serve entire communities. Better still, they will have no moving parts - no operating costs - no maintenance problems. Drawing their cold from the so-called permafrost - permanently frozen ground that lies just beneath the surface of ~~most~~ Alaska.

Most important, the ice boxes will help ~~to~~ preserve the Eskimo's biggest money "crop" - namely, walrus meat; about half of which is normally lost to spoilage during the brief but hot Alaskan summer. The new ice boxes thus expected to save the communities they serve - up to three times their Twenty-Five thousand purchase price - and ~~that's~~ every year.

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Ice boxes for <sup>the</sup> Eskimos, Warren! Whatdayuknow?

SAN RAFAEL

*From San Rafael, California, comes the story of a king-sized check. In size at least. The check actually written - on the face of a full sized door. Signed by the head of a local lumber firm - in payment for what he evidently thought an excessive telephone bill. The phone officials delivered it to his bank - the lumberman's - by truck - where it was duly cashed by bank officials.*

*Is the last laugh on the lumberman? The bank - having done it's banking duly - refusing to send back the check. A bank official saying: "Whoever heard of returning a cancelled door?" Ha! Ha! and solong until tomorrow.*