

JUNE 9, 1970  
Dallas Townsend

AMMAN

*In the tense Middle East - an attempt today against the life of Jordan's King Hussein; with a band of Arab guerillas - attacking a royal motorcade on the outskirts of Amman; forcing the King and his party to beat a hasty retreat - back into the capital; where there was heavy street-fighting today - between Arab guerillas and Jordanian Army troops. The government of Jordan later reporting "large numbers" of killed and wounded - hours after a cease-fire was agreed on.*

*Israel and Egypt kept up their exchanges across the Suez Canal. To the South, long-range Egyptian artillery - shelling Israeli positions about ten miles deep in the Occupied Sinai. While Israeli jets were staging a six-hour raid - against Egyptian targets in the Northern Canal Zone.*

## INDOCHINA

*In Southeast Asia - the focus of fighting suddenly shifted to Southern Laos; where North Vietnamese troops captured the strategic town of Saravane - as part of an attempt to reestablish their supply lines southward into Cambodia. The Communists also launching a series of attacks in the Fishhook region of Cambodia as well as the Northern provinces of South Vietnam.*

*Back in Saigon - South Vietnam's Vice President Ky announced one result of his recent mission to Cambodia. Asserting that Phnom Penh has agreed to permit South Vietnamese operations on Cambodian soil - anywhere it is "deemed necessary" for mutual "protection and security."*

## FORT MCPHERSON

*Another entry today in the log of the March Nineteen-Sixty-Eight incident at My Lai - with the Army declaring Captain Thomas Willingham - a free man; dismissing murder charges against the young officer - one of four so charged - for, quote, "lack of evidence." The news relayed to Captain Willingham's present base - at Fort Meade, Maryland; where it was further announced that he would now get his long-delayed release from active duty - just as soon as his papers can be processed.*

VENICE-AUSTRIA

At Venice, NATO defense talks ended with Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - reportedly turning his attention to the current arms race; asserting that NATO will face some ~~to~~ hard, tough decisions in the next year to Eighteen months - if present SALT talks in Vienna fail to achieve their purpose.

And then - a later report from Vienna. Official sources speak of an "understanding" - between U.S. and Russian disarmament negotiators; perhaps the first step - in limiting anti-ballistic missile systems. With full details to be worked out - perhaps - later this summer.

## SUPREME COURT

*For the first time in more than a year - the U.S. Supreme Court is once again at full strength, with today's installation of Harry Blackmun as an Associate Justice - filling at long last the vacancy left by the departure of Abe Fortas. Chief Justice Warren Burger - who presided over the ceremony - telling his boyhood friend: "I look forward to many years together - in our common calling." The two men later were invited to the White House - where President Nixon, who appointed them both, personally extended his own congratulations.*

*More news in a moment.*

**SUGGESTED INTRO TO THOMAS TAPESLUGGED "LONG SESSION"**

**Next - Lowell Thomas en route to Siberia - checking in again tonight from up North in Alaska. Lowell...**

LONG SESSION

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*How did the members of the two houses survive their ordeal? Not all of them did. One Senator, Bill Polland from Kodiak, had a near fatal heart attack and had to resign. His wife was allowed to take his place. One frontier legislator went on a week-long bender and then when he resumed his seat had a fist ~~fight~~ ~~fight~~ fight with another of his own party from the Bering Sea Coast. They still play rough up here near the North Pole. Too bad theree isn't a young Robert Service around to write an epic poem about this session of the Legislature.*

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*Although I stopped off on my way to Siberia to say hi and so long to the Alaskan Lowell who is here in the*

*Senate, for my information - I didn't bother him knowing he'd be loyal to his associates in both parties. I went to my number one source when I'm in South Eastern Alaska - a daily newspaper, The Alaskan Empire.*

*Jerry Bowkett, a reporter who covers the Legislature tells me this extra long session may even have had an almost endless chain of both good and bad effects on Alaskan life and politics. The state is so huge the members of the Legislature - many of them - most of them, live a long, long way from Juneau, the capital. Their wives and children stay at home, and I hear this double length session has resulted in some matrimonial problems. The members are miners, some have fishing boats, bush pilots, hunting guides, and this long session has cost them heavily, so much that some say they will not run for office again. Alaska is such a vast land, the problems of campaigning so unusual and the problems here in the North, so complex, legislators in Alaska perhaps should be paid more than in other states.*

**SUGGESTED FOLLOW UP TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "LONG  
SESSION"**

**Thank you, Lowell.**