

L.T. OLDS - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1963

Good Evening everybody:

We hear that everything was almost all right at the White House today. That is everything O.K. but the weather. The big welcome for the President of Venezuela was dampened by rain and snow.

President Betancourt flew from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Andrews Airforce Base in Maryland. Then on to the White House by helicopter. Greeted on the North portico of the executive mansion by Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy. The North portico with its sheltered roof. However, the parade of the two presidents through Washington, rescheduled for tomorrow. Weather permitting.

Tonight, the Kennedy's are entertaining the Betancourts at a State banquet.

CUBA

The question of the Soviet troops in Cuba has been on the air all day today. So let's begin with an angle about which you may not have heard.

Radio Liberty is starting a Russian language program beamed at Castro's island. That is, beamed at the Russian soldiers and technicians. The point being - that the Russians are close enough to hear the Western viewpoint on International affairs. Which means they may be vulnerable to something better than the Red indoctrination, which is all they ever heard behind the Iron Curtain.

The hope is that they'll tune in our Russian programs that will originate in Charlotte, North Carolina. And, that they'll return to Russia with some of our ideas about freedom and democracy.

But, will the Russians be in Cuba long enough to hear Charlotte calling? For several thousand, it's probably too late. Khrushchev, notifying our

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Government that they'll be gone by March 15th. This announcement coincides with a C.I.A. report of empty Soviet ships bound for Cuba. Presumably transports to take the Russians home.

The Khrushchev announcement, it turns out, was the reason for last night's conference at the White House. President Kennedy, informing a bipartisan group from Capitol Hill. Trying to satisfy the critics who are not helping our diplomacy - according to Adlai Stevenson. Our Ambassador to the U.N. suggests that Khrushchev will recall his troops in Cuba, unless we make it too embarrassing for him.

HIGHJACK

The Brazilian Government is taking no chances with the Reds aboard the hijacked Venezuelan freighter. The order today - to the Brazilian Marines :- "Arrest the hijackers!"

Not that Brazil will decline to give the Venezuelan Communists political asylum. The episode on the High Seas will be investigated, and, if no crime was committed, the Reds will be released. The ship, and the rest of the crew, sent back to Venezuela.

EUROPE

The Free Trade Association of Europe -
is going to beat the Common Market to the punch.
Britain and her economic allies - to remove industrial
tariffs ~~by~~ by 1966. ~~That is~~ a year ^{ahead of} ~~earlier than~~ the
Common Market. The so-called "Outer Seven",
in a bid to show that they can produce unity and
prosperity - before the continental group that
de Gaulle hopes to lead.

What about British entry - into the
Common Market? London intends to resume the
negotiations - from a position of strength. The
strength of - the Free Trade Association.

BULGARIA

The Red boss of Bulgaria is in Moscow - for some explaining. That's the Western interpretation of Zhivkov's hurried trip to the Soviet Capitol. To explain why the recent anti-negro riot - in Sofia.

Khrushchev is described as furious because communism now is being attacked throughout Africa. Especially in Ghana - where students returning from Bulgaria are bitter about the way they were manhandled by the Reds, then hustled aboard trains headed for the frontier.

The Sofia affair a harsh blow to Khrushchev who has been trying to penetrate Africa through Ghana. Now, Ghana is swinging over to the Western side, threatening to vote against the Communist bloc - in the U.N.

Bulgaria's Zhivkov, in Moscow to explain.

WEATHER

I wonder if Alexander the Great ever had to deal with water in the palace basement? The question seems appropriate, because Macedonia is flooded tonight. Alexander's homeland, feeling the effects of heavy rain plus a sudden thaw. Streams over their banks, inundating thousands of acres of farmland, and carrying away homes and barns. Many drowned - or missing. The Greeks and Yugoslavs, starting rescue operations along their borders in Macedonia.

Across the rest of Europe, all the way to Spain - snow, rain, avalanches, landslides. The Continent getting one more taste - a bitter taste of winter weather.

WINTER

Have you heard about Florida tonight?

Tornadoes are reported bouncing across the central part of the State, creating havoc when they touch down. Hit by twisters today :- Orlando, Lakeland, Lake Alfred, Indian River City.

In one place, the wind picked one car from a causeway and dropped it into Tampa Bay.

The storm moving North. Gale warnings, from Cape Hatteras to Maine. Tides, two feet above normal - along the New Jersey Coast. And the middle Atlantic States can expect as much as four inches of snow during the night. New England - six inches, expected here at Mt. Mansfield where I am, Dick.

TRAIN

The passengers who boarded the train at Leeds, England, today, found a questionnaire on each seat, asking them what they prefer in a railroad, speed, punctuality, or comfort. The passengers, settling down to fill out the questionnaire - during the run to London.

Alas, on that particular run they didn't have speed, punctuality or comfort. The train, leaving Leeds half an hour late, averaging only forty miles an hour, arriving more than an hour late, and in darkness. The lighting system had failed. Some of the passengers were even unable to finish the questionnair about the service.