

February 15, 1972
Allen Jackson

WASHINGTON

Good evening. John Mitchell resigned today - as U.S. Attorney General; to become instead President Nixon's election campaign manager - the same job he held in 'Sixty-Eight. Mitchell saying: "It is with considerable regret that I leave the President's Cabinet; but I do so with the firm belief - that I will be working to attain the greatest good for the country."

As for Mitchell's successor - the nominee is Richard Kleindienst, his former chief assistant. The latter - you may recall - a key aide to Barry Goldwater back in 'Sixty-Four.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - the Pentagon's annual "posture" report to Congress. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - said that Russia is close to achieving a "major new military capability;" perhaps - said he - roughly comparable to the Sputnik - which stunned the space world more than ^a decade ago.

For that reason and others - Laird urged a long-range modernization of U.S. defenses. Estimated cost - more than Eighty-Three Billion.

He also said the U.S. is still shooting for an all-volunteer Army - as of mid-'Seventy-Three; but barring an increase in enlistment rates - well, there's still the draft.

PARIS

The Vietnam talks at Paris - again in a state of suspended animation. The U.S. and South Vietnam today canceled out temporarily - because of, "the other side's recent propaganda activities." Which means, apparently, no talks - while the President is visiting Red China.

NEW YORK

After weeks of seemingly endless confusion - the Howard Hughes-Clifford Irving case apparently began to sort itself out today. At any rate, a Federal judge here in New York - ordered the arrest of Clifford's wife, Edith; who is wanted in Switzerland - on charges of counterfeiting, forgery, embezzlement and theft. Mrs. Irving later agreed to surrender tomorrow morning - when a date will be set for an extradition hearing.

At the same time, a Federal grand jury - heard from two of Irving's "other women;" singer Nina Van Pallandt - and scuba diver Anne Baxter; after which they told it all over again - before a New York County grand jury. Observers noted that one or more indictments - may be imminent.

DACCA

At the end of an overnight visit to the new state of Bangladesh - a brief departure statement today from Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts. At Dacca Airport, the Senator told a cheering crowd - he will return home and "insist" that the U.S. government officially recognize Bangladesh. Kennedy added that the American public - already favors such a move.

BIHAR

From the jungles of India's Eastern Bihar State - comes the story of another elephant stampede; the third there - in less than two weeks. A herd of giant pachyderms - stormed through a small village; in the process, trampling to death two persons - also, destroying crops and homes; when they were finally done - leaving the village a virtual ghost town.

Officials adding that these elephants - same as the others - had apparently gorged themselves on overripe, fermenting fruit. They were, in effect - raging drunk.

LIBERAL - OLNEY

The winner of this year's Twenty-Third International Pancake Race - Kathleen West of Liberal, Kansas; with a near-record time - of fifty-nine-point-five seconds; where the best the ladies could do it at Olney, England - a full seventy seconds.

Kathleen West - the first Black ever to win the Pancake Race. That was back in Nineteen-Seventy. Now - a repeat performance.

RIO

At Rio De Janeiro - tens of thousands of Brazilians tonight are entering the home stretch - of Rio's famed "Carnevale" celebration. The wind-up of Mardi Gras - Lent beginning tomorrow. The casualty toll, of the celebration - at last report: Eighty-Eight dead - at least ten thousand injured. In comparison with past years - a rather quiet affair.

**SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "NEW GUINEA
ABORIGINES"**

*Next - Lowell Thomas; discussing again tonight -
the aborigines of New Guinea. Lowell...*

L. T. TAPE INSERT

NEW GUINEA ABORIGINE

The fast moving Australians have made it possible for the tribes to set up their own New Guinea parliament, at Port Moresby. Bob Trumbell tells me the language used in those parliamentary sessions in New Guinea pidgeon-English which some lexicographers now proclaim an authentic language a mixture of Malay, German, English, Dutch, New Guinea tribal words and so on. What a language. Here's the way they say piano: "bokus im bitem". Bokus being a word used for any structure that contains something, box, automobile, whatever. The piano keys look like teeth so it's a bokus im bitem.

In ~~my~~^{my} mail today was a clipping from an Australian paper telling about seven tribesmen who cooked the body of a man, with sago, and made a cannibal feast. They had shot him with bow and arrows because he, sometime before had killed Woroboy Besi's brother with ^a stone ax.

NEW GUINEA ABORIGINE - 2

*All of which may point out what some of the problems
are out in that part of the world*

*As they say in New Guinea pidgeon, Warren, now you
rousem microphone.*

**SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "NEW GUINEA
ABORIGINES"**

*Me got 'em, Lowell. Just long enough to say -
a final note - in a moment.*

CAIRO

In the strife-torn Middle East - Egypt launched a new austerity campaign. The Cairo government selling at auction - a hundred and twenty prize Arabian horses used mainly for ceremonial purposes. Also, urging a nationwide thirty-mile speed limit - to save gasoline. Further ordering movies, theaters and other night spots - to close an hour earlier. This - we are told - in order to get people home earlier - to help ensure proper rest. The government noting that twelve million working hours are lost each year - because of late arrivals at work.

And that's the latest from Cairo - where, henceforth, it's early to bed, early to rise - or else.

Now for Lowell Thomas - so long until tomorrow.