

March 19, 1970
Allen Jackson

Good evening - in the White House - as in millions of homes clear across the country - Topic A today was money - and how best to use it; a problem that President Nixon tackled in two pieces of proposed new legislation.

The first - a new housing bill - which he sent to Congress; including a provision that would make F.H.A loans available to prospective home-buyers - without a down payment. It would further permit the use of government subsidies - to help the tenants of public housing complexes to buy their own buildings.

The second bill - a new Higher Education Opportunity Act - which the President also sent to Congress today. This one calling for an expanded program - of Federal scholarships and low-cost college loans; to be made available only to students - from families earning less than Ten Thousand-a-year. The President asserting that "no qualified student who wants to go to college - should be barred by lack of money."

MAIL STRIKE

And money - of course - is also the major topic in that spreading strike of letter carriers in the New York Metropolitan area - now in its second day - and letters, bills, checks, packages - and what not - piling up by the ton. Some big corporations used trucks and planes to ship their mail out of town - for mailing in such places as Chicago and Philadelphia. But that's of no help to the big companies doing business in the New York metropolitan area. Take the Consolidated Edison Company - for example - it normally takes in some three-million dollars a day by mail - from its electricity and gas customers. Now - it can't receive the checks - or send out the bills.

The earliest possible settlement? Not until Saturday - when the New York carriers vote on whether to end this illegal walkout. If they don't - then some say - the New York Stock Exchange - may have to close up shop Monday. There's no business without mail business.

PARIS

At the peace table in Paris - the U.S. was accused today of master-minding the ouster of Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The Communist side charged^{ed} that this was done - "in the hope of diverting Cambodia from its policy of independence and neutrality / of maintaining solidarity and friendship with the neighboring countries of Indochina." The Communists argued.

America's Philip Habib - next up - promptly rejected the Communist accusations. He also attempted to bring up again - the subject of American prisoners-of-war; but again - go^T nowhere.

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED

"RETURN TO NEPAL - PART TWO")

And now - time for Lowell Thomas; reporting
again tonight - from the "Land of Lost Horizon."

Lowell...

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RETURN TO NEPAL - PART TWO

L. J. Tappan insert - 6

-- and greetings from Nepal. unedited
Good evening, everybody, fifteen years ago, there

were a few automobiles here. But they had to be carried in by men, carried over the tower range of the Himalayas into the Kathmanadu Valley. It took two-hundred men to do it then - two-hundred to carry one car, and it took them about a week to do it. So in those days, even a small automobile cost around twenty-thousand-dollars by the time it got here, Kathmandu. The Buick we used then was of Nineteen-Twenty-Eight vintage, and I hear it is still running and was recently resold at two-thousand.

Today there is a new highway leading up from the plains of India. And the Chinese Reds have even built a road here from Tibet, right across the Himalayas. For this is the principal buffer state between the two nations with the largest populations - ^{nine}~~five~~-hundred-million people in China - six-hundred-million in India.

So, even ^Iexotic, far off Nepal has entered the age of the automobile and the jet plane. In spite of this, it's still

RETURN TO NEPAL - PART TWO

one of the most colorful, unusual and exciting places in
the world, about which I'll have more to tell you in my
next. Solong.

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED

"RETURN TO NEPAL - PART TWO")

Thank you, Lowell.

PENTAGON

Here at home again - Defense Secretary Melvin Laird held an impromptu press conference today at the Pentagon.

There asserting that North Vietnamese forces in Laos -

have had the "capability" of seizing Laos in its entirety

since Nineteen-Sixty-Two. He added, nevertheless, he would

still favor continued U.S. bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail

in Laos - even if the Communists did take over that

country. demonstrators.

Minutes later - The committee approved his

nomination unanimously, passing it along to the full Senate

for final confirmation - which is now expected shortly.

SENATE

REPORT

Across the Potomac - in Washington proper - the nation's new Selective Service Director-designate^{U.S.} - front and center today. Curtiss Tarr telling the Senate Armed Services Committee - he would like to see an end to practically all automatic draft deferments; including and especially - said he - student draft deferments. He added though he would never attempt to use the draft to punish anti-war demonstrators.

Minutes later - the committee approved his nomination unanimously; passing it along to the full Senate for final confirmation - which is now expected shortly.

ERFURT

For the first time ever - an historic meeting today between the heads of the two Germanies. At the city of Erfurt in the East - Communist Premier Willi Stoph played host to Chancellor Willy Brandt of the West. As the parley began - Stoph demanded Twenty-Seven Billion in "cold war" reparations - as the price of improved relations between East and West. Brandt, in turn, urged a joint effort - to "fill in the trenches" left from World War Two; trenches which divide not only Germany - said he - but also all of Europe.

Earlier, Brandt was cheered on arrival by an estimated five thousand East Germans - who chanted over and over; "Willy! Willy! Willy" And Warren, one man, about sixty, who joined in the demonstration - telling reporters: "This is the first time we've had an opportunity to show our true feelings - since the American troops were replaced in Erfurt by the Russians back in Nineteen-Forty-Five."

SCOTLAND NECK

While the swallows were returning to Capistrano today - right on the dot - the little village of Scotland Neck in North Carolina was attempting to cope - with a flighty problem of its own; millions and millions of "blackbirds" who have taken up temporary residence on the outskirts of town - in a week-long pause en route north for the summer. The birds, by sheer weight of number, killing trees and foliage - polluting canals, rivers and streams - and just making a general nuisance of themselves. All but ignoring guns, ifre crackers and a smalll cannon - which have been used unsuccessfully in an attempt to get them going again.

Scotland Neck's Mayor - Fred Harrison - observed that the town is smack-dab in the middle of a Federal bird sanctuary. "But this" - said he - "this is going too far."

And now for Lowell, this is Allen Jackson saying so long.