

L.T.-OLDS, FISHER. TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1964

(Los Angeles, California)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The aggression of the Chinese Reds in Southeast Asia - overshadows the fact that they are committing aggression elsewhere. But that fact is part of daily life - up on the Roof of the World. And tonight we have a report of - another Tibetan revolt.

Place - the Chang Tang Plateau. The bleak, desolate upland that begins north of Lhasa - and continues to the Kun Lun Mountains of China. From time immemorial, bandits have preyed on caravans - that followed the historic trade routes across the Chang Tang. More recently, Tibetan freedom fighters have been waylaying - Red Chinese military columns. Cutting off stragglers - and blowing up command cars.

But the latest violence on the Chang Tang - was no mere ambush. Refugees reaching Nepal tell of a big battle that erupted - when the Red general in Lhasa ordered a punitive

expedition to sweep across the plateau. The Tibetan rebels organized a big force to stop them - at a key pass. And that was where the battle began - a week ago. The fighting, so bitter - that the Red commander sent an SOS to Lhasa. Begging - for reinforcements. He couldn't push through the pass - until two battalions reached him.

A running fight - developed. A battle for control of Tibet's Chang Tang Plateau. A battle that could easily turn into - a long war. The Chang Tang being - bigger than a lot of countries in the world.

NAGALAND FOLLOW TIBET

While Red China is having trouble with Tibet -
democratic India is having success with Nagaland.

I doubt that you've ever heard of - Nagaland. It was
formed recently in the mountains of northeast India - on the
Burmese border. Nagaland - home of the Naga tribe. The
rebels who have been fighting for their independence - since
the end of the British Raj. Fighting with Japanese weapons -
captured during World War Two.

Now, New Delhi announces - a cease fire. To be
followed by - negotiations. And the establishment - of a new
Indian state. The state of - Nagaland. But not all of the
regional customs - are being respected by the Indian government.
Not, for example, the old Naga practice - of headhunting.

LAOS

Peking's explanation of the Laotian crisis - could not have surprised anyone. Whom would Mao Tse-tung blame - except us? What would he say to our proposal for a cease-fire - except "no"? What would he suggest - except another conference which he could use as a propaganda sounding-board?

Mao's strategy is the one - that the Russians made notorious. Commit aggression, accuse your victim, grab territory - and demand a settlement that leaves you in possession of the spoils. While the territory still free remains free - only until you get a chance to repeat the process.

That's why the crisis in Southeast Asia - runs in parallel lines. One military - and one diplomatic. President Johnson is still trying for a solution - through diplomacy. But the President knows that military action on a bigger scale - may be necessary. Hence his efforts to get sufficient strength - into the area.

What about - Seato? One person who would like to have Seato forces - is the Commander of the Laotian Army.

The United States wants the U.N. - to patrol the border between South Viet Nam and Cambodia. So stated by Adlai Stevenson - at today's session of the General Assembly. Our Ambassador to the U.N., specifically ruling out - the international control commission that has failed to keep the peace in Laos. Failed even to keep a check - on the Red offensive.

The point is that we feel unable to trust a group - where the Communist has a veto. We prefer to have the U.N. step in - and guard that disrupted border. Stand as a buffer - between South Viet Nam and Cambodia.

testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

EQUIPMENT

Our Secretary of Defense, referring to the equipment now being used in South Viet Nam - uses the phrase "complete blank check." Meaning - our military commanders out there can ask for whatever they need. And - the Pentagon sees that they get it.

As to the charge of "obsolete planes" being flown by American and Vietnamese pilots - the charge misses the point. Because over-age aircraft are sometimes better than jets - for jungle warfare. More maneuverable, requiring smaller landing space - and so on.

Secretary McNamara gave this explanation - while testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

G.O.P.

The Republican National Committee indicates that Bobby Baker - will certainly be a campaign issue. There has been talk of the former Secretary to the Senate Democrats - disappearing from the presidential battle. Because the Senate investigation might be ancient history by then.

dollars. But the GOP High Command says - "not so." The Republicans want the investigation pressed - until the case is solved. Until the nation knows exactly how Bobby Baker ran a salary of less than twenty thousand dollars a year - into a fortune of two million. On paper - at least.

Will President Johnson be asked about - the man he knew as a Senator? Try to find a Republican - or indeed anyone interested in politics - who doubts it.

POVERTY

The bill that has just passed the House Education and Labor Committee - is labeled "must" by President Johnson. The measure to combat poverty, second only - to Civil Rights. And so this vote amounts to a real victory - for the White House. The Committee, approving - nine hundred and sixty-two million dollars. Financing for the drive to eradicate poverty - from American life.

SPACE

The villain of the piece at Cape Kennedy - a compressor. A gadget that helps cool the guidance system - of the Saturn-One rocket. The compressor got out of kilter today - and immobilized Saturn-One. Keeping the Apollo capsule on the ground - instead of whizzing through space.

One of those irritating "bugs" - that sometimes get into sophisticated machinery. Result - postponement of the space shot until Thursday. Then, if all goes well - our scientists will get a good look at an Apollo dry run. A flight of the space capsule - without anyone inside. Another step toward putting - an American on the Moon. In fact two astronauts - by nineteen sixty-seven.

WHISKY

In Colorado City, Alex Hicklin's wish - has finally come true. Alex died ninety years ago - after asking one thing of his wife. Namely - that he be buried with a bottle of whisky in each coat pocket. Until today - no one knew whether she fulfilled the dying man's last request.

The authorities in Colorado City had to move Alex - to make way for a new street. And they found his coffin - bone dry. But in the Rockies, they don't ignore a last request - even ninety years later. So Alex Hicklin was reburied - with the firewater he wanted. A bottle of bourbon placed in his new coffin by Mrs. Laura Halsey - at ninety-six, the oldest living Coloradan. Laura was present as a little girl - when they buried Alex Hicklin for the first time back in eighteen seventy-four. Quite a dry spell for an old-timer -- who liked his firewater.

MOSELLE

Now, when a Grand Duchess goes for a boat ride with two Presidents - well, that would be today's spectacle on the Moselle River. Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg, joining - President DeGaulle of France, and Luebke of West Germany.

The three heads of state, presiding over the ceremonial opening - of a waterway that concerns their three countries. The Moselle Canal - that now permits big vessels to sail up and down the Moselle River.

The Moselle - one of the historic rivers of Europe. Rising - in France. Continuing as the boundary between Luxembourg and Germany - before flowing into the Rhine at Coblenz. Taking its place in the development of modern European economy - with the Moselle Canal.