

L.T.-OLDS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1960.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

That conclave in Palm Beach concerns Legislation at the highest level. President-elect Kennedy is conferring with the men - who will guide his program in Congress. Through Congress - he hopes.

Lynden Johnson - arrived first. He flew in with Lady Bird as we all know he calls her - and plunged into strategy talk with the President-elect. Following Johnson came Sam Rayburn, aboard Kennedy's private plane, The speaker, flying from Bonham, Texas - was met by his host at the Palm Beach airport. Finally, Mike Mansfield, of Montana - Democratic whip in the Senate.

So the three top men the Democrats will have in Congress are in Florida, talking politics with the President-elect; Lynden Johnson, Sam Rayburn, Mike Mansfield, and, of course, Senator Kennedy knows a thing or two about how to handle Congress.

We are told the conversation down there in Palm Beach  
- has been optimistic so far. The next Administration  
confident, it can get most of what it wants - on  
Capitol Hill.

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control. Sweeping through - the massive dreadnought.  
It happened so quickly - that dozens of men were trapped  
below deck. Most of the others, jumping onto the pier -  
or into the icy waters of the East River.

Fire Commissioner Cavanaugh ordered all available  
equipment to the scene. Hundreds of firemen have been  
fighting the blaze - since 10:30 this morning. They  
are still trying to cut through the steel plating - to  
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Tonight, the carrier is listing so badly they  
had to open the scuppers on one side, to prevent her  
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## FIRE

The fire aboard the biggest aircraft carrier in the world - was caused by a welder's torch. The constellation in Brooklyn Navy Yard - set ablaze when the welder's torch touched a can of inflammable liquid. An inferno of flame and smoke erupting - raging out of control. Sweeping through - the massive dreadnought. It happened so quickly - that dozens of men were trapped below deck. Most of the others, jumping onto the pier - or into the icy waters of the East River.

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- a rugged fight in frigid winter weather. The toll?

Well, it's not accurately known yet. All we are sure of - is that several have died; also many injured; plus damage - running into the millions.

Boys is saying - that's the way it is - a payroll of 100

million falling on the shoulders of - that's the way it is -

it. The teachers are - that's the way it is -

Orleans are - that's the way it is -

and - that's the way it is -

the offer from - that's the way it is -

heirss who is willing to - that's the way it is -

for the school - that's the way it is -

even all right with her - that's the way it is -

repay the loan.

Oh, but they have - that's the way it is -

and are faced with a - that's the way it is -

they accept or not - that's the way it is -

payroll. It's the fate of - that's the way it is -

## NEW ORLEANS

The entire school system of New Orleans - is in danger of disintegration. The cause - financial. The state legislature saved the schools last month - by passing a special appropriation. This time, Baton Rouge is saying - "no." This leaves a payroll of two million falling due on Friday - with no money to meet it. The teachers and other school employers in New Orleans are facing a bleak holiday without salaries.

The school board is debating whether to accept the offer from Ellen Steinberg of St. Louis; the heiress who is willing to loan half a million dollars - for the school expenses. Miss Steinberg added, it's even all right with her - if the school board can't repay the loan.

Ah, but they need several times half a million; and are faced with a recurrent financial crisis whether they accept or not. The point at issue - isn't the payroll. It's the fate of the public schools - in New Orleans.

## LAOS

A dispatch from Vietiane states that the Reds - are on the run. The Communist rebels of Laos, throwing away their weapons - fleeing back into the jungle, not attempting to make a stand against the triumphant forces of pro-western general Phoumi Novasan.

Behind the battle line, in Vientians, Prince Boun Oum - is restoring civil government with the assistance of Seato. The Allies of the southeast Asia treaty organization - rushing food and medical supplies from Bangkok, Thailand. Enough to tide the Laotian government over - during the present crisis. But Prince Boun Oum will need massive aid in the coming weeks - and he is asking Washington to send it to him.

## CUBA

From Cuba - more reports of bombings and sabotage. Castro's enemies, making good their promise - to allow the Dictator no rest. Today more than a dozen bombs went off - in Havana. No one was hurt and there was little damage. But the bombers are achieving their purpose - of keeping Castro and his Red advisors off balance.

The sabotage referred to - the sugar fields. Many of these have been badly damaged - by arsonists of the anti-castro underground. The sugar cane, left in such bad condition, it's worth less than the cost of processing. As a result, Castro is threatening to dissolve the Cuban cane growers association.

## QUEMOY

The Chinese commander of Quemoy expects an attack from the mainland - to coincide with America's inauguration of a new president. So reported by U-P-I newsman, Al Axelbank. Mao hoping that President Kennedy will pull back our defense perimeter west of the off-shore islands. Let Quemoy and Matsu - fall to the Communists.

Sources close to Senator Kennedy, retort that Mao is in for a shock. Because Kennedy intends to follow the basic policy of the Eisenhower administration and won't leave Quemoy and Matsu undefended, and invite a Red attack.



## UNDERWORLD

The word is that someone in the Montreal underworld had a bright idea - for sabotaging the city's burglar alarm system.

They cut the master cable - linking the Montreal police station to banks, offices, private homes, fur depots, and so on. The plan was to saturate the city - with teams of burglars, each team, breaking into one building during the night, before the cables could be repaired.

But the police gave the alarm; and, uprode the vigilantes committee. Up they rode - in cars and taxis. Private citizens, volunteering to stand guard at key positions - even all night. Covering an area - twenty miles square. Result - not a single burglary. Tonight the burglar alarm system - is working again. The underworld, wondering how clever you have to be - to pull off a job in Montreal.

What about the police? They are saying it wasn't anything as dramatic as that. The cut cable, just a case of - juvenile delinquency.

Now - from Seattle lets switch across the continent to Dick Noel in New York.

## JIM RICHTER

Wish all of you could have been along with me today. We were flying in a twin-engine F-27, up the Eastern top-half of California, with such glorious snowy mountains off to the left as Lassen and Shasta; then past the pride of Oregon, Mount Hood, over Portland and the Columbia; and on north through skies where we could look down on those spectacular extinct volcanoes of Washington, Mt. Saint Helens, Mt. Adams, and finally, Rainier. A sparkling winter day, with these matchless peaks at their best.

Our pilot, by the way, was as picturesque as the mountains, Jim Richter, with a world war record in the air, and after that, a sort of buccaneer-flyer all over the globe. He even flew Moslem pilgrims from Persia to Arabia; pilgrims bound for the Holy City of Mecca.

On ~~the~~ one occasion a scheik demanded that he land them near the second Mohammadin forbidden city,

Medina, where the prophet is buried, and where Christians are never allowed. He is one of the few Christians to ever see the Prophet Mohamed's tomb.

And as he took off, the desert Arabs peppered his plane with lead. A most re-assuring chap to fly with, anywhere, at any time.

And now let's cross the continent in twinkling and see if we can pick up Dick Noel.

while yet because some pledged electors in the south - voted for Senator Byrd of Virginia. And in Oklahoma, one pledged elector backed a challenger - casting his ballot for Senator Goldwater. To top it all, Hawaii will have to have a recount to find out just which group of electors do have a right to vote. Will this have any bearing on the White House? Not. The electoral college vote will still show what we already know, that Richard Nixon lost and John Kennedy won.

## ELECTION

Today American has been electing - a new President. That is, the electoral college - casting ballots in the state capitol. Deciding between Kennedy and Nixon - on the basis of what happened last November eighth.

It's all supposed to be - cut and dried. The electors, voting - as directed by the electorates. But this time, the final tally won't be known - for a while yet because some unpledged electors in the south - voted for Senator Byrd of Virginia. And in Oklahoma, one pledged elector became a maverick - casting his ballot for Senator Goldwater. To top it all, Hawaii will have to have a recount to find out just which group of electors do have a right to vote. Will this have any bearing on the White House? No! The electoral college vote will still show what we already know, that Richard Noxin lost and John Kennedy won.

LT from  
Fairbanks.

Dec. 20,  
1960.