

L.T. -BUICK.FISHER. MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 1964

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.

The United Nations -- heading for another showdown. The over-riding issue -- will Russia pay -- or not pay -- its U.N. peace-keeping accounts?

Secretary Genral U-Thant -- just out of hospital bed -- returned to the U.N. today in an effort to head off the political financial impasse; but without success. The Soviets still insisting that a token payment to the U.N. Treasury -- should wipe out all its peacekeeping debts. But the U.S. still demanding that Russia pay in full - or lose its votes in the U.N.

Tonight there's a strong indication that the U.N. General Assembly may adjourn for the year; with no solution to this deadlock that could wreak the U.N.

SOVIETS

In the Soviet Union today - officials of two factories fined the equivalent of more than seventeen thousand dollars. Their crimes - turning out defective jackets, fur coats and fur hats.

In the same case- criminal indictments filed against ~~both~~ both factory officials - as well as a third- ~~The third~~ man charged with turning out poor quality - candy/

The Kremlin commenting that from now on - Russian goods will be judged primarily on consumer acceptance. And if any products are left unsold - factory officials will have to pay for them out of their own pockets. A return to capitalism? No, says the Kremlin. Just being practical.

VIET NAM

For a change - some heartening news today from South Viet Nam. A striking victory for government forces - in a raging two day battle with the Communist Viet Cong.

The battle developing near the provincial capital of Soc Trang - about eighty miles southwest of Saigon.

South Vietnamese rangers striking at the heart of Viet Cong headquarters - for all of western Viet Nam. Killing or capturing more than ninety Communists - and seizing a record cache of enemy arms. The victory hailed by U. S. military advisers - as the greatest yet against the elusive Viet Cong.

However, the political crisis ~~in~~ in Saigon continues unabated. Premier Tran Van Huong and Chief of State Phan Khac Suu - stripped of all power in a military coup, Today threatening to resign unless civilian rule is restored - as the U S demands. But Lieutenant General Nguyen Khanh - Commander in Chief of the Armed forces - refusing once again ~~at~~ even to meet with U S Ambassador Maxwell Taylor.

ITALY

A break tonight at last - in that Italian political stalemate.

The government - thirteen days without a President. Finally= the powerful Communist party throwing its support to Guiseppe Saragat - pro-western candidate of the Social Democratic party. The Communists thus assuring Saragat's election - as Italy's first Socialist President.

It was a switch for the Communists - who control twenty-five percent of the vote. Previously, they supported left-wing Socialist Premier - Pietro Nenni. Supported him through twenty ballots - in bitter opposition to Saragat. The deadlock raising serious doubts - as to the future of Italy's parliamentary system. However, the Communist concession - on the twenty-first ballot - ending - the longest presidential election in European history.

BERLIN

The Christmas spirit in East Berlin -- a bit jaded, it appears. In the last nine days -- nearly half a million West Berliners crossing into the Communist zone. Their safe passage through the Iron Curtain -- guaranteed under that Christmas amnesty.

But the West Berliners are having to exchange three Western Marks for -- three Eastern Marks -- each time they pass through the Berlin Wall. And they can't bring the East Marks back -- nor can they recover their Western Marks.

At an average "take" of seventy-five cents per customer -- the Communists are thus reported to have collected -- more than a quarter of a million dollars in western currency. Money they badly need -- in foreign exchange.

INDIA

Nine persons ^{wer}_^ killed today - in the high Himalayas

The victims - Hindu pilgrims. Fifteen others injured -
when their bus skidded into a mountain gorge in northern
India. Site of the accident - some two hundred miles north
of New Delhi - near Kotdurara, India. The pilgrims heading
for mountain shrines - on the roof of the earth - when the
accident occurred.

EUROPE

Another mass of Arctic air envelopes Europe tonight - from Moscow to Madrid. The thermometer plummeting to five degrees - at Eskadlemuir, Scotland. Elsewhere, snow and ice - stranding ~~thous~~ thousands of Christmas travellers. But ^{as usual} the winter weather ^{is} a boon ~~at best~~ ^{at least} to alpine ski ~~res~~ resorts.

ALPS FOLLOW EUROPE

Speaking of skiing --near-tragedy today - high in the Alps. At Innsbruck, Austria - scene of the Nineteen Sixty Four Winter Olympics. Two cable cars packed with two hundred skiers - involved in separate accidents almost simultaneously - on the slopes of the Patscherkofel, a mountain where the Olympic downhill race was run.

One car crashing into a station halfway up the peak - the other crashing into the station at the summit. Both cars travelling at top speed. Twenty persons injured - but miracuouly, none killed. The twin accidents caused by a failure in the brakeing system - of the new cable railway - that was built for the Olympic Games - only last year.

WEATHER

*On this side of the
world*

Victims of last week's floods - threatened by
a new menace today along the California - Oregon border.
An Arctic snowstorm pounding the rough mountain country -
for the second straight day. Total accumulated snowfall -
expected to reach more than three feet. Some five hundred
persons already isolated along the Klamath and Salmon
Rivers - in California's Siskiyou country. The region still
cleaning up from last week's flood - when the new storm
hit. Now, some twenty-five military helicopters - poised
to begin a massive air lift to ^{rescue} ~~the~~ storm victims. Awaiting
only - a break in the weather.

DIMES

Who put the dimes in Mrs. Crosby's flowers?

Nobody answered - so they're shouting all the louder.

*Who? Why, Mrs. Crosby, her son - Hubert Crosby, Junior
- and the F B I.*

*Seems that Mrs. Crosby - who lives in Greenville,
Mississippi - received a ~~gax~~ box of flowers - a gift
from her son. But inside the box she found - a bank bag -
containing fifteen hundred dimes. This - not a gift from
her son.*

*The coins presumably put there - by someone
trying to hide them. Perhaps to cover a theft. Enter
the ~~Ed~~ F B I - and tonight - this question; ^{Dick:-} Who put the
dimes in Mrs. Crosby's flowers? The FBI says
speak up - say it louder.*

PRESIDENT

President Johnson's health - pronounced excellent today. The medical report issued at the L.B.J. Ranch - by Rear Admiral George C. Burkley, the White House physician. What about that heart attack in Nineteen Fifty-Five? No evidence of any residual effects - said Admiral Burkley. Any repercussions from the recent campaign? None whatsoever, said Dr. Burkely. L.B.J. evidently coasted on that. The President's only recurring health problem cuts and bruises, suffered in shaking hands with many thousands of voters-- the usual occupational hazard.