

L.T. BUICK, FISHER. JUNE 16, 1966 (DALLAS TOWNSEND SUB.)

Thursday

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A ship collision late today at the mouth of New York Harbor. Between two tankers. One of them carrying highly flammable and explosive Naf-tha. At least twenty-three crewmen killed -- many others swimming for their lives through burning oil. Some still unaccounted for. A tugboat moving alongside the smashed and flaming tankers -- hoping to separate them -- itself engulfed in flames.

Many small craft -- including coast guard and police boats -- and helicopters -- rushing to the scene, between Staten Island and Bayonne, New Jersey. The Coast Guard has accounted for about seventy men who were admitted to hospitals. Some later released.

CAPE

Another amazing success story today -- from Cape Kennedy. A Titan-Three-C rocket blasting skyward -- en route to a perfect "aiming" orbit; carrying Eight satellites -- like peas in a pod. Preparatory to launching them -- One by One -- for the start of a worldwide military communication network.

The Eight-in-One shot -- First of three. Designed to string a total of Twenty-Two of the tiny space relay stations -- around the globe. Eventually providing instant communication with American fightingmen -- wherever they may be.

CASTRO

Latest international mystery: Whatever happened -- to Fidel Castro?

The question raised officially today -- by the U.S. State Department. Noting that Castro has been "uncharacteristically" silent -- ever since May First. Leaving public duties mainly to his brother Raul -- and to Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos. Leading to "widespread speculation" -- about his future role in Cuban affairs.

Whatever that role -- said the State Department -- the Castro "regime itself -- is faced with growing popular dissatisfaction; resulting from its repressive method of government -- and from its economic and other failures."

VIET NAM

The courage of American fighting men in Viet Nam -- demonstrated once more today; in the heroic actions -- of an Eighteen-man U.S. Marine patrol.

The Marines surrounded by a force of Communists -- Twenty times their number. Fighting down to their last Twelve rounds of ammunition -- fighting on with grenades, bayonets and finally rocks. Until the arrival of reinforcements -- just in the nick of time.

In the end -- only two of the Marines were left unscathed; only Seven in all -- were still able to pull a trigger. But all around them -- a ring of Communist dead. At least forty of the enemy -- paying with their lives.

A Marine spokesman observing: "It was like Custer's last stand -- with a happy ending."

POLITICAL FOLLOW VIET NAM

Not so the story on the political front -- at least, not yet.

In the Northern city of Hue -- about Five Hundred government troops deserting today -- at Buddhist urging. Many joining Buddhist dissidents -- still intent on toppling the military government.

Be that as it may -- a crack battalion of loyal paratroopers arrived at Hue; to join a comparable force of combat police -- already there. The combined unit rounding up Fifty prisoners -- including ten monks. In a relentless drive -- to break the back of the rebellion.

PRESIDENT

In Washington -- President Johnson today was given a unanimous vote of confidence on Viet Nam; this from a national conference -- of state legislative leaders.

The President -- obviously buoyed by the endorsement -- later pledging that the United States will continue to fight in Viet Nam; until the time -- said he -- when the Communists agree it is "better to talk than fight."

The reason -- said the President -- to demonstrate once and for all -- that "gansterism and aggression and force are not to be rewarded." For in truth -- said he -- "we are fighting for the freedom and liberty of a hundred nations."

Strangely enough -- a story today from Paris -- in somewhat the same vein. On the eve of DeGaulle's scheduled "friendship trip" -/ to the Soviet Union.

High French officials pledging that DeGaulle will seek every possible opportunity /- for warming up relations between East and West. / This in hopes of gradually breaking down /- the Iron Curtain frontier. /

As part of the plan -/ so the story goes /- DeGaulle will stress the importance of German reunification. / The French President said to believe there can be no real peace in Europe-- as long as Germany remains divided.

REACTION FOLLOW PARIS

In the meantime, quick reaction today -- from both sides of the Iron Curtain; to that German reunification plan put forward by Dr. Rainer Barzel -- a high-ranking member of West Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Party.

The plan -- as reported from Washington -- predicted on major concessions to the Soviet Union. This prompting Bonn -- to issue an official disclaimer. The West German government calling Barzel's plan -- "a personal expression of opinion." Not in line with the views -- either of Chancellor Erhard or the rest of the government -- said Bonn.

The Russians, for their part, calling the Barzel plan -- "unrealistic." A Soviet spokesman declaring that reunification can be accomplished -- only through negotiations "between the governments of East and West Germany."

BEAR

This next -- a somewhat surprising post script -- to that great bear hunt last week at Pottersville, New Jersey.

You may recall -- a massive search was underway for the wandering bear; including game wardens armed with tranquilizing guns -- who hoped to capture him unharmed. When the two hundred and thirty pound creature -- suddenly lumbered up the front walk of dairy farmer Roy Herzog.

Alerted by a frightened niece -- Herzog pursued the animal to a nearby maple tree; and there dispatched him -- with three blasts from a shotgun. For that -- Roy Herzog has now been served with a summons -- for shooting out of season.

Now a word from Warren Moran -- who could never be accused of talking out of turn.

GABOR

Today's quote of the day -- comes from Hollywood; from the much-married movie actress -- Zsa Zsa Gabor. In comment on a decision by the Social Register -- to ignore her recent marriage -- her fifth -- to Texas socialite Joshua Cosden.

Said Miss Gabor: "If people knew some of the things I knew about women in the Social Register -- they wouldn't be listed either." Zsa Zsa adding: "At least I marry the men I have love affairs with." Biting sarcasm from Zsa Zsa Gabor.

Good night.