

March 18, 1970
Dallas Townsend

Good evening everybody.

The first strike in history against the U.S. Post Office Department crippled mail deliveries today in the New York Metropolitan area, including parts of Long Island, New Jersey and Connecticut. A wildcat walkout by the letter-carriers, who want higher pay - striking against the advice of their national union leadership and in defiance of Federal anti-strike laws. This afternoon a Federal judge issued a temporary injunction against the walkout - and a local union leader urged the men to go back to work. Postmaster General Winton Blount did likewise - said President Nixon and he - are deeply concerned - added that the U.S. simply cannot tolerate a mail stoppage, since the mail system is the lifeblood of the economy, and millions of Americans depend on it for their very survival. Blount has suspended the pay of all striking postal workers until they return to work. But whether they will remains problematical. There is at least a possibility that the strike will spread.

RHODESIA

The UN Security Council this afternoon ordered severance of all relations with the white-minority government of Rhodesia, and the interruption of all adopted following the defeat of two other resolutions, one stronger, to other weaker. It was passed by a vote of fourteen to nothing, with Spain abstaining.

PHNOM PENH

Suddenly, unexpectedly - in the Kingdom of Cambodia - the greatest political tightrope act of the century was cut short today - at least, temporarily. At Phnom Penh - a right-wing military clique seizing control of the Cambodian government. Ousting neutralist Chief of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk - with the apparent backing of Cambodia's National Assembly.

A broadcast from Radio Phnom Penh ~~later~~ blamed Sihanouk's long-running balancing act - for the present "political crisis" in that country. A crisis that was created - it was charged - by the presence of at least Forty Thousand North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops on Cambodian soil.

MOSCOW FOLLOW PHNOM PENH

As for Sihanouk himself - he ^{flew} ~~was flying today~~

from Moscow to Peking. On departure from the Russian capital - displaying no apparent concern about the coup back home.

Instead, Sihanouk said he would probably set up a government-in-exile - either in Moscow or Peking. He also relayed a warning - from Soviet Premier Kosygin; whom he quoted as saying that "the extreme right" in Cambodia - could well spark an all-out war with North Vietnam.

**(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"RETURN TO NEPAL")**

**Next up - Lowell Thomas; reporting again tonight -
from the Kingdom of Nepal. Lowell...**

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find. My last visit to this Shangri-La, which is in the
Siwalik range between India and Tibet was fifteen years ago.
In nineteen-fifty-five I was here in a dual role, as a special
ambassador representing President Eisenhower at the
Coronation of King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva; also
with a Cinema crew making a wide screen film, "Search
for Paradise," as called it. So, of course, I wondered what
changes I would find after fifteen years in what had been
a hermit country.

The changes are many. There include a rather modern
far better airport. No longer the short runway where it was
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smooth paved roads with ^{new} modern bridges in place of
the noisy one over which we rattled the year of the
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RETURN TO NEPAL

L. I. Tape insert - unedited
Good evening, ^{everybody,} ~~Warden~~ and Greetings From Nepal.

Returning to this long isolated always independent Himalayan country, I, of course, wondered what changes I would find. My last visit to this Shangri La which is in the Himalayas between India and Tibet was fifteen years ago. In nineteen-fifty-five I was here in a dual role, as a special ambassador representing President Eisenhower at the Coronation of King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva; also with a Cinerama crew making a wide screen film; "Search For Paradise", we called it. So, of course, I wondered what changes I would find after fifteen years in what had been a hermit country.

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buildings. But most noticeable of all - automobiles now have taken the place of palanquins carried on the shoulders of men; and, alas the automobiles have taken the place of ~~Warren~~ ^{Now} of the elephants. Wouldn't you rather ride an elephant?

Over two-hundred elephants, all painted and gaily caparisoned, carried all of us who took part in the nineteen-fifty-five Coronation processions. Now for the Wedding of Crown Prince Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, over a hundred shiny new white automobiles were brought in. *So long...*

**(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"RETURN TO NEPAL")**

Thank you, Lowell.

MAJOR KNOWLTON

VIETNAM FOLLOW UP

Major General William Knowlton has been named Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point. He succeeds Major General Samuel Koster - one of the officers charged with dereliction of duty in connection with the investigation of the My Lai incident of March 1968. General Koster reviewed a farewell parade at the Point this afternoon

(Faint background text: In Saigon - another premier of the Vietnam war... casualty report... South Vietnamese forces... charged with dereliction of duty... investigation of the My Lai incident... Koster reviewed a farewell parade... a couple of big tests last week... and down South in the Mekong Delta.)

VIETNAM FOLLOW SAM THONG

In Saigon - another preview of the Vietnam weekly casualty report; said to show a sharp increase in battlefield casualties - among South Vietnamese forces and also Communist troops. This - we are told - a reflection of continued "Vietnamization" of the war; which the enemy put to a couple of big tests last week - up North near the D.M.Z. and down South in the Mekong Delta.

SAM THONG FOLLOW MOSCOW

Speaking of which, North Vietnamese troops were reportedly pressing their advantage today - in neighboring Laos. The Communists seizing a U.S. support base - at Sam Thong; and they are now said to threaten a main Laotian military headquarters - at nearby Long Cheng.

SENATE

Chairman Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board testified today before the Senate Banking Committee. There observing that the nation's "money supply - has grown moderately in recent weeks;" which suggests - he said - that "total bank credit has also begun to rise." This seen as an indication that the "Fed" may soon relax its present "tight money" policies - thus clearing the way for a decline in interest rates.

Burns further asserted that the "current economic adjustment" - as he put it - "lacks the pervasive and cumulative characteristics of a recession. "In any event" - he added - it is still the "Fed's" view that "the economy will resume its upward course later this year."

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.