

L.T. - DELCO. WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1959.
(Allan Jackson - L.T. in Alaska)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At his news conference today, President Eisenhower covered an array of topics - with emphasis on the steel strike, and the Geneva conference.

With regard to the steel strike - Mr. Eisenhower is maintaining a "hands off" policy. He has no plans to invoke - the Taft-Hartley Law. He told his audience - he thinks he has acted correctly so far - and he still feels that labor and management might come to a settlement after consultations with Federal Mediator, Joseph Finnegan.

In particular, he doesn't feel he should have appointed - a fact-finding commission. As the President put it today - "I believe all the facts - are pretty well known."

The Union proposed that a three-man fact-finding committee be set up - in an effort to find a solution to

the strike - but the industry turned this down - and accused union president McDonald of trying to avoid his responsibility for collective bargaining.

President Eisenhower was brief - and to the point - on the subject of the Geneva conference. His attitude, he said, remains unchanged. He has no intention whatever of going to a summit meeting - under a Soviet ultimatum. And he thinks the Russians have one way to remove their ultimatum - by signing a written guarantee of our rights in Berlin. Mr. Eisenhower added - Secretary of State Herter has the authority to commit this country to a summit conference - should he get that written guarantee from Gromyko. In other words, Mr. Herter has freedom of maneuver in Geneva - and is not tied down by any need to consult President Eisenhower on the major issue.

GENEVA FOLLOW EISENHOWER

So the question is - will Geneva produce that formal Soviet denial - in writing - / that Khrushchev intends to force us out of Berlin? So far, no such agreement has been reached - but Gromyko has invited Selwyn Lloyd to a private lunch tomorrow - which raises the possibility that the Soviet Foreign Minister might have something new to say to the British Foreign Minister.

The highlight of today's session was / French criticism of Russia. Couve deMurville accused Gromyko / of almost ruining the conference with impossible demands. Like Gromyko's plan for an all-German commission to discuss German reunification / before any agreement on Berlin is reached. As far as the West is concerned / Berlin comes first.

VIRGINIA

The Virginia election is a victory for - Governor Almond. No - the Governor wasn't standing for office. But his backers were / with the key issue - / integration of the public schools. Governor Almond has called for - "freedom of choice" in the counties. He opposes / "massive resistance" to integration.

The election shows - "freedom of choice" winning over "massive resistance." Governor Almond's candidates are virtually certain to take office / because of this Democratic primary. Virginia, of course, almost always goes Democratic.

PLANE

The Belgian airliner forced down in Hungary - may have been off course - may have wandered into Hungarian air space.

The plane was en route from Greece to Austria / when a flight of jets appeared. They buzzed the airliner / until it landed.

The Hungarian authorities at the airfield / examined the papers of the fifty-five aboard - / and then allowed the pilot to take off for Vienna.

TYPHOON

The toll of that Japanese typhoon / increases with every report from the stricken area. The latest count shows around sixty dead, thirty missing, hundreds injured, scores marooned. Fifty thousand homes are flooded in southern Kyushu - traffic is at a standstill in the cities of the island - and telephone polls have been knocked over like ten-pins.

Heavy rain is falling - and the typhoon is still blowing. But rescue operations are going on around the clock - with helicopters shuttling the survivors to safety / wherever it's possible for the egg-beaters to fly.

INTRO. TO TAPE

This time, the Lowell Thomas report has overtones
of - adventure and science. But first, how about telling
us - where you're speaking from, Lowell?

L.T. - (ICE ISLAND)

Another report from the Arctic. I wonder if any of you remember the broadcasts I made from an IGY camp adrift on the floating ice of the Polar Sea? That was in November, 1957. A couple of hundred miles from the North Pole.

At the time I said the ice we were on was only about eight feet thick. I was visiting scientists who then had been adrift on the ice for seven months. Living in some twenty-pre-fabricated huts, with all their scientific equipment.

Sure enough a month after I left them their four mile square ice floe began to break up. About four months later it broke right in two - the half that included an air strip on the ice, parted company with the part on which the scientists were camped - twenty Air Force personnel and scientists.

But they stuck it out until six months later -

last Fall - when their half began to go to pieces. Their pre-fabricated huts and all their elaborate equipment crushed in the grinding ice. But the men all got off just in time!

Father Tom Cunningham, veteran of the Arctic for twenty-five years - led them over the nearby thin ice and pressure ridges to another floe from which they were rescued by a plane from Greenland.

The ice on which they had had their camp, had drifted thirty-five hundred miles, back and forth in the Arctic Ocean, while the scientists were there.

When I was on the ice at Station 4, the location of the drifting floe was about eighty-two degrees North Latitude and one hundred and fifty-two degrees West Longitude - way to the east, between Greenland and the Pole.

After that thrilling rescue were the scientists

discouraged? Not at all. They are back there again - a new group of volunteers - at this moment out on another ice floe. This one they call Station A2. Part of a new five year program of Polar research. After eight or nine months this floe will start to break up. They always do.

Personally I'd like to be out there with them. It may have its hair-raising moments - but, it's a wonderful life. Until that ice starts to break up under you!

FOLLOW TAPE

52:15

Well, Lowell, between American scientists who float
away on chunks of ice - and the Eskimo pilots you mentioned last
night - it seems as if the Arctic Ocean ^{is} creating some "new"
legends of the North. Matching the legends ^{of} ^{Den} - the Yukon,
and the Trail of 'Ninety-Eight.

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Here's a phrase that was in the news all the time - four years ago. Remember "Dixon-Yates" - and the controversy it provoked? The phrase referred to a private power project -- that would have supplied electricity to the Atomic Energy Commission. The government signed the contract in Nineteen Fifty-Four / but cancelled it / after a furious political fight over public-versus-private-power.

(21)

(12) The government claimed later / that the contract was invalid. But today a Court of Claims in Washington / ruled in favor of the Company. The sum awarded / over one million, eight hundred thousand dollars.- to Dixon-Yates.

54:00