

LT. SUSTAINING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1966

(Dallas Townsend, Sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The quest for party and national unity -- an all-pervading factor today; at a Washington meeting -- of top Republican leaders. On the international front -- a stern warning to the Communist world. The GOP telling Red leaders not to misinterpret those recent election results -- as a sign of national disunity -- not to make the mistake -- of thinking this is a weakening of U.S. resistance to Communist aggression.

On the domestic front -- Governor Romney of Michigan attempting to restore party unity; in a public meeting with Barry Goldwater -- whom he failed to support in Nineteen-Sixty-Four. Wishing Goldwater well -- in his effort to regain a Senate seat from Arizona.

Goldwater -- for his part -- refusing comment on a

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possible Romney candidacy in Sixty-Eight; but making it clear -- he has no intention of bolting the party. "I'll just stand on my historical Republican record" -- said Goldwater -- "and cross that bridge when I get to it."

VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- another B-Fifty-Two attack today on Moo Ja Pass; at the southern terminus -- of the Ho Chi Minh trail.

This, the eighth attack of the war by B-Fifty-Two's on North Vietnam -- again successful -- in choking off the Communist supply route from the North. But the raid itself -- a sign of increasing Communist air defenses.

For the first time -- the big bombers accompanied by fighter protection. In response to widespread reports -- that Russia has recently supplied North Vietnam with an additional One Hundred jets. These reportedly including several of Russia's latest, the delta-winged Mig-Twenty-Ones -- fastest plane *9* in the Communist air arsenal; said to be armed with day-and-night search radar -- as well as air-to-air missiles.

In Saigon -- American military officials today arguing against extension -- of those two forthcoming

holiday truces; basing their arguments on the Communist military build-up -- during last year's truce.

At the same time -- ranking military men urging a gradual escalation of the air war; to include Mig bases and other military installations -- now off-limits for political reasons.

BANGKOK FOLLOW VIETNAM

From neighboring Bangkok -- a report that a unit of U.S. Special Forces -- Green Berets -- has just been assigned to Thailand. Their job -- we're told -- to help Thailand organize Twenty-Two units of its own special Ranger force; for the purpose of combating Communist guerrillas -- in the northeast section of that country.

This -- according to high sources in the Thai government. Said to be an indication -- of increased Communist insurgent activity in Thailand; to the point where responsible U.S. officials -- are now ~~in~~² seriously concerned about it.

COURT

Decision day at the U.S. Supreme Court -- and a bad day for James Hoffa. By a vote of Six-to-One -- the High Court rejecting Hoffa's appeal from a jury tampering conviction. Making it all but certain -- that the teamsters union President now must serve an eight-year penitentiary sentence.

In other cases -- the Supreme Court today: Ruling -- Five-to-Four -- that the Georgia state legislature does have the Constitutional right to settle the deadlocked Georgia governor's race; reaffirming a judgment against Milwaukee -- in that city's attempt to prevent a move of the National League Braves to Atlanta; reinstating an inter-state gambling charge -- in connection with the New Hampshire sweepstakes; and, finally, agreeing to rule on the Constitutionality of Virginia's anti-miscegnation law.

IKE

Major surgery performed today on General Eisenhower -- a complete success -- as you have no doubt heard by now. Doctors at Walter Reed Army Hospital removing Ike's gall bladder -- in an operation that took nearly two hours. Later reporting the former President -- in good condition; the outlook for a speedy recovery -- said to be "excellent." Good news -- all around -- for General Eisenhower.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

Lowell Thomas is still in Europe -- in hot pursuit of high
adventure. So once again -- a special report ^{Tonight} -- on a subject of
vital interest to conservationists.