

WHITE HOUSE

February 1, 1972
Allen Jackson

Good evening. From the White House today -
confirmation that President Nixon is considering a new
"value-added tax" - which some call a form of National sales
tax - running to somewhere around Sixteen Billion-a-year.
White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler - saying that
present proposals "are similar to that figure;" with the idea;
of course - that of relieving property holders of some of the
current cost of school finance. Ziegler stressed, however -
that no final decision has yet been made.

WASHINGTON

The big event today in Washington - the Nineteenth Annual National Prayer Breakfast; in attendance - more than three thousand government, civic and religious leaders from across the land; and, President Nixon - who voiced a fervent plea that he will be "on God's side" - during his forthcoming trips to Peking and Moscow.

The President pointed out - some of the many difference between the U.S. and Communist nations. Saying: "It is naive to think that these differences will just evaporate - if only we set out to know each other better." "Indeed" - said he - "the differences are because we do know each other better." But the U.S. wants nothing from any other country - he continued; and, therefore, "our role may be - to help build a new structure of peace in the world."

The President adding: "We must all learn to live together - or we will die together."

RURAL FOLLOW PRESIDENT

On another front, the President today proposed to Congress - a new One-point-Three Billion-Dollar program to "revitalize" rural America. This to include the establishment of a new Rural Development Credit Fund - to underwrite business loans, thereby spurring economic growth in rural areas. It also calls for Federal financing of community projects - such as water ^{and} sewage systems, industrial parks, community centers.

Ultimate goal - said the President: To end the present "dramatic disparities" between metropolitan and rural areas - in per capita income, housing, education and medical care; in the process ^{Hopefully} - stemming mass migration. The President adding: "This doesn't necessarily mean - 'keep them down on the farm' - but to keep them down in the country - by providing practical and viable employment."

CHICAGO

At Chicago's packed McCormick Place - a memorial service today for famed gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

Friends and admirers present - included Sammy David Junior, Ella Fitzgerald and Mrs. Martin Luther King, to name but a few; with Mayor Daley of Chicago - delivering a main address.

The Mayor said of Mahalia Jackson: "She was given the opportunity to sing in night clubs - to become a popular blues singer - but she knew what she wanted; she wanted to share her deep religious feelings - through song - with all the people who heard her." And every song she sang - he said - was "an expression of life - a story of faith."

BELFAST

In the wake of Northern Ireland's "bloody Sunday" - a second straight day of widespread violence; including a sniper attack in Belfast - killing still another British soldier.

In London, the appointment of Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice of England - to act as a one-man inquiry commission into Sunday's bloodshed. House of Common Speaker Selwyn Lloyd also served notice - to Bernadette Devlin et al - in the wake of yesterday's outburst that he will not permit any more uproar there. Said Speaker Lbyd: "The reputation of the House and the chair are now at risk - and that is something I cannot tolerate."

VIENNA

From Vienna - an announcement today that the Sixth round of SALT talks will terminate - as of the end of the week. This - a surprise development; leading to speculation that there may have been a "breakdown" in the SALT parley - or else a "breakthrough," an agreement at last. But which, if either - well, we'll just have to wait and see.

INDOCHINA

In the air war over Indochina - a new development today. For the first time - we are told - South Vietnamese jets joining U.S. warplanes - in bombing attacks directed against enemy supply trails inside Laos. Another step apparently - in U.S. "Vietnamization" of the war.

The U.S. Command also reported seven more "protective reaction" strikes - against enemy missile and radar sites in North Vietnam. Only two today - but five yesterday, the most in a single day since the start of the Nineteen-Sixty-Eight bombing halt.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "THINK TANKS"

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas.

Subject tonight: Think tanks. Lowell...

THINK TANKS

The word's "Think Tank" - do they conjure up an image of double domed brain trusters - hammering out inspired solutions to minumental problems?

We are told it's seldom the case. Author Paul Dickson in a new book aptly titled Think Tanks - tells about some highly vaunted research institutions; citing case after case of seemingly senseless projects; as, for example, a study of the nervous system of the Chilean Squid - an investigation of the aging process in rocks - an inquiry into quote Communist vulnerability to the use of music. I met one chap at The Pryors on Maui in Hawaii - who had been roaming the world - studying turtles.

Says Author Dickson - these projects are sponsored mainly one administration - after another with the Department of Defense - "the undisputed king of irrelevant research;" at a cost - running into the millions and millions every year.

Think Tanks by Paul Dickson - a book to make you stop

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and think. But - we must do research into almost everything - or we'll vegetate - don't you think?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "THINK TANKS"

Thank you, Lowell - I think.

A final thought - in a moment.

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FORT WORTH

From a marriage license bureau at Fort Worth, Texas - the story of a young man and woman who came in recently; and obtained a marriage license - at a cost of Five Bucks. Except the man returned alone the next day - trying to get his Fiver back. Explaining: "We broke up." Whereupon he was told: "Sorry - no refunds."

Ah, but there's more. A day later - the young man returning again; armed with a new blood test report and a new girl - now asking for a mere change of name. Explaining - he didn't want to "waste" his license. Whereupon he was told: "Sorry - no transfers." Thus faced with another Five Dollar outlay - the young man said something about "good money after bad" and away he went.

For some reason, all this called to mind Socrates' sage advice - when he was asked whether it was better for a man to marry or remain single. Said Socrates: "Let a man take which course he will - for either way he will repent of it." And now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.