

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.

Tues. Feb. 25, 1969  
(Dallas Townsend)

Sirhan Sirhan told his lawyers and the judge in Los Angeles today that he wants to plead guilty to the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy. The defendant did this after exploding with rage over the introduction in evidence of diaries - in which Sirhan had repeatedly written that Kennedy must die. Taken into the chambers of Judge Herbert Walker, Sirhan declared "I would rather plead guilty and go to the gas chamber than have people think I am getting a fair trial." But his lawyers won't let him do it - explaining that Sirhan "blew his top" - and they are going to protest his constitutional rights. The trial was recessed until tomorrow morning.

## HIJACKING

Another case of hijacking in the air. A man with a gun commandeered an Eastern Airlines plane - with sixty-seven persons aboard - and forced it to fly to Havana. The crime occurring just after the plane left Atlanta, Georgia - on the last leg of a scheduled flight from St. Louis to San Juan Puerto Rico.

More action in the skies over the troubled Middle East. Three times today, according to Jordan, Israeli jets attacked rural areas in Jordianian territory. A government spokesman in Amman claims that the Israelis have never admitted, and they don't confirm any of the reported jet strikes.

Here in New York, a fatal fire on Fifth Avenue, in the heart of midtown Manhattan. Breaking out suddenly on the third and fourth floors of an office building - trapping numbers of people at work in late afternoon. Authorities report six or seven people killed - others injured. A fireman says "something must have exploded."

HIJACKING - 2

Mayor Lindsay rushed to the scene from City Hall. New York's worst fire in more than two years.

LONDON

A long and important day for President Nixon in London. The President lunching with Queen Elizabeth - at Buckingham Palace. Becoming the first U.S. President - ever to visit a working session of Parliament - where he was widely praised, also - a tour of Westminster Abbey. Along the way - the President stepping into crowds - to shake hands and chat with cheering Britons. The scheduled anti-Nixon demonstration - by the so-called "Hot Reception for Nixon Committee", proved a big flop. Instead of the massive demonstration - the committee managing to muster only a couple of dozen-long-haired protestors. And for all the effect they had - they might as well have stayed home.

Tonight - the President joining Prime Minister Harold Wilson - in a "working dinner" at Number Ten Downing Street. Next stop - Bonn; and then - last Berlin.



WALTER REED

At Walter Reed Army Hospital - former President Eisenhower continues his speedy recovery from surgery. Doctors today assessing his progress - as "little short of remarkable." Reporting that "he is able to converse, his morale is excellent - tea is being added to his oral diet," and he read for a brief period this afternoon.

The General's overall condition - "of course, weaker now than before" - the doctors went on. Adding, however, that his "eventual condition should be better" - with chronic attacks of gastrointestinal upset, they hope, a thing of the past.

VIETNAM

Four major Communist assaults today; in the third day - of the third day - of the enemy's new offensive in Viet Nam.

Two of the attacks - near Saigon. The other two - near the D.M.Z. Where the enemy advance was led by "human bombs" - fanatical North Vietnamese with explosives strapped to their waists. In each case though - the enemy was turned back with heavy loss of life.

BOSTON-LOS ANGELES

On the weather front - New England still trying to dig out - from its second major snowstorm in two weeks. Boston reporting seventeen inches of new snow - Providence, thirteen - with forty-mile-an-hour winds adding to the havoc.

Across the continent - another downpour today. With Southern California's worst winter in eighty-five years - keeping up the dirty work. Flooding many homes - burying others under mudslides - stalling traffic; making life in general - just miserable.

## QUITMAN MOUNTAINS

For the two astronauts who are scheduled to become our first men on the moon - a geology field trip today. Neil Armstrong and Buz Aldrin of the upcoming lunar landing flight - tredding through the rugged Quitman Mountains of Southeast Texas. Picking up rock samples - studying the geology of the area; much the same as they hope to do it - on the surface of the moon just a few months hence.



## CAPE KENNEDY FOLLOW QUITMAN MOUNTAINS

At Cape Kennedy - the countdown continues steadily today - toward Friday's scheduled launch of the Apollo-Nine. While spaceflight meteorologists - are predicting "acceptable" weather conditions.

By the way - we also hear that space nicknames - after a ban of several years - are once again A-Okay - not to coin a phrase. In part, because the Apollo-Nine moonship - is really two spacecraft. When they split high above the earth - the command ship to be called "Gumdrop." Its companion moon landing vehicle - to be called "Spider."

The two ships so named - we are told - because "that's what they look like."

## LABOR

The U.S. cost of living - still - going up. With the government today reporting - another three-tenths of one per cent increase in retail prices during January. Coupled with a jump of eight-tenths of a percent - in the companion wholesale price index. Making it all but certain - the nation's current inflationary trend will remain with us - for some time to come.

Government economist Arnold Chase observing that:

"Demand is putting pressure on prices - it's as simple as that."

## TROMSOE

Lowell Thomas is currently plowing through the wilds of Wyoming - via snowmobile. Overseas though - there are still some who insist on doing things the hard way. As , for example, French adventurer Yves Gerard DeLatte - who arrived today in Northern Norway. Completing a perilous journey from Ivalo in neighboring Finland - entirely by skis.

As far as distance goes - the trip covered only a hundred miles or so. However, the terrain -some of the roughest in the world - especially at this time of year. DeLatte taking twenty-eight days to complete his trek - and he was lucky to have made it at all. Reporting that he lost his way in the subzero cold - and once fell into an icy river. Adding that if he had any sense - he probably would have taken the advice of local officials; who told him - "don't go."

Ah, but now that it's all over - the apres-ski begins. And for Frenchman Yves Gerard DeLatte - beaucoup to celebrate Good night.