

July 15, 1971
Allen Jackson

The Western White House says President Nixon will make what it calls "a major statement" on all nation wide radio and television networks tonight. But the announcement carries an air of mystery: White House aides refused to divulge the subject of the statement or give an inkling of its nature in advance. White House New Secretary Ronald Ziegler told reporters: "I strongly advise you not to speculate on the content of the statement." The Presidential statement will be aired from Burbank, California. A helicopter is standing by to fly the President to Burbank from San Clemente - the statement to be carried live over many of these CBS Radio Network stations at 10:30, Eastern Daylight Time.

WASHINGTON

On the domestic front - the President's new chief economic spokesman - front and center today. Treasury Secretary John Connally - saying the economy is making a strong comeback from last year's recession. Just look at the facts - he said - and "you can't come to any considerable proportions;" and one that "is broad in its sweep - and deep in its track."

Connally conceded, however, there may still be some bad news - mixed in with the good over the next few months. Said he: "If people just want to be pessimistic - if they want to look at things they can be downhearted about - I think they will be able to do it." But he added, in effect: "Not me."

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

Tightening-up move by the Federal Reserve Board

- a one-quarter-of-one per cent increase to five per cent in the discount rate it charges member banks for borrowing.

The Board said the rise is "in recognition of increases that have taken place in other short term interest rates." The Federal Reserve Board has followed a vigorously expansive monetary policy in recent months - but now wants to tighten up a bit because of the fear of increased inflation.

PARIS

At the peace table in Paris - an attempt today at a "new approach." David Bruce for the U.S. urged an immediate cease-fire throughout Indochina - while discussions continue on Hanoi's latest peace offer. Bruce told the Communist side: "I earnestly hope your answer is yes - for I can think of nothing more universally desired - or more helpful to setting the stage for serious negotiations on all other issues."

If the enemy is "buying" though - as yet, no indication.

DERBY

NBC News correspondent Phil Brady reported on "NBC Nightly News" tonight that "extremely reliable sources" have linked South Vietnam's President Thieu and Vice President Ky with that country's illegal drug traffic. Brady said the sources claim Vietnamese and American officials have the evidence.

MERSA MATRUH

In the Middle East - Israel celebrated today its twenty-third annual Air Force Day. An occasion marked by aerial acrobatics - fire displays - and a fly-past including virtually every type of Israeli aircraft. Also - a number of patriotic speeches.

Reverse side - the leaders of Egypt, Syria, Libya and Sudan - met today at the Mediterranean resort town of Mersa Matruh; there to discuss - a proposed Federation of Arab Republics.

KINSHASHA

Today's stop for Vice President Spiro Agnew - the city of Kinshasha, formerly Leopoldville, in the Congo; where he congratulated the Congolese - on the "remarkable progress they have made "in the space of a few years." The Vice President noting that the Congo was born in chaos - but has since become one of the most stable countries in Africa.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - they're still trying to find the cause of that "glitch" - or brief power drop - which occurred yesterday in the Apollo-Fifteen moonship. A minor mystery apparently - but one that must be cleared up before the final countdown can begin; and that ^{is} now set for less than five days hence.

LITTLE RIVER

In Washington - Senator Hughes of Iowa declared himself officially "out" today - as a possible Democratic Presidential candidate next year. Hughes' aides suggest that he now supports Senator McGovern of South Dakota - as the best man, at present, to head off Democratic swing to the right.

INTRO TO THOMAS TAPE "NOME NUGGET"

As you may have guessed - Lowell Thomas is off again on another of his periodic jaunts; this time - to the redwoods of California; about which he'll be telling us, - in days to come. In the meantime - a special report he left us; about another of his favorite haunts - way up NOrth.

Lowell...

1:16

Thank you Lowell - Another story after this ...

Having spent some time up on the edge of the Arctic Ocean -- my first trip to Nome was fifty six years ago -- I never feel as though summer has arrived until I hear that enough ice has gone out of Bering Sea for vessels to get to Nome.

Albro Gregory, editor of the Nome Nugget tells me this has happened. He also says it looks like a record tourist season for Arctic Alaska. Even during the month of May he says eight hundred and forty one tourists visited Nome -- flying there, of course.

From now on up there they'll lose a couple of minutes of daylight each twenty four hours, and before long it will be dark right around the clock. To illustrate the fact that Alaska isn't exactly over-populated, Albro who is an ardent fisherman ~~suggests~~ of standing on a sand-bar, fishing for Grayling, with not another human being within miles and miles.

SAN FRANCISCO

For more than a century - the Golden Gates of California have beckoned to millions - here in the U.S. and right around the globe. Representing to many - the fabled "promised land." As recently as four years ago - three-out-of-four Californians calling their state the "greatest" - they wouldn't live anywhere else.

But that was four years ago - and the results - of a recent poll - something else again. The figures now showing - we are told - that only two-out-of-three Californians are willing to rate that state - "as one of the best places to live." Indeed, almost half of those who arrived since the last poll - say they are "so 'turned off' by life in California - they would like to move to another state."

And now for Lowell - this is Allen Jackson saying so long...