

L.T.-OLDS. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1960

(Given by W.Cronkite, from Chicago. L.T. in Calif.)

GOOD EVENING:

President Eisenhower received another of those warm welcomes, today, in Santiago, the capital of Chile. Dense crowds hailing him - as he drove through the streets with Chilean President Alessandri. Throngs - not as large as the huge multitudes that acclaimed him in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. But then, Santiago is only about half the size of the capitals of Brazil and Argentina.

The only discordant note was the doing of local Communists - who put up signs hailing Castro of Cuba and his anti-American attitude. The Chilean police - quickly removing the pro-Castro propaganda.

At Santiago, tonight, the President looks, not so tired - as when he arrived. After a weekend - which was supposed to be a rest at an Andean resort of Western Argentina.

There he began the day yesterday with an early trip to go fishing. The fish - not biting, not the big ones, anyway.

Then the Argentine President flew him by helicopter - to a hideaway for diplomatic talks. Which was followed by a reception of state - with the signing of a pact of Argentine-American friendship. The President - completing the day by working on papers connected with business back home.

Then today, a flight over the Andes. During which the President signed an executive order, invoking the Railroad Labor Law - to head off a threatened strike of Pullman conductors against the New York Central. The order - creating an emergency board, which will investigate the dispute.

That was the restful weekend, and no wonder the President looked a little tired. But he seemed refreshed - by the enthusiastic welcome he got in Chile. On a perfect summer day, down there below the Equator.

INDIA

Indian Premier Nehru will meet with Communist Premier Chou En-Lai of China - in April. So announced by Nehru, today - to the parliament at New Delhi. They'll try to settle the border disputes between India and Red China.

Nehru had suggested a meeting in March. Chou En-Lai responded by suggesting April. Which, says Nehru - is agreeable to him.

This announcement was followed by an announcement that the government of India is increasing defense expenditures by fifty-seven million dollars. In the face of what the announcement calls - "the present threat to our borders."

KHRUSHCHEV

In Indonesia, Khrushchev, today - made a threatening statement concerning the Berlin crisis. Declaring - that the Russians and East German Reds will move to end the Western occupation in West Berlin. If - the forthcoming summit conference does not bring about an agreement. But, at the same time, Khrushchev spoke optimistically - about the prospects of the East-West meeting of the chiefs-of-state.

This transpired at Jakarta - where Nikita pulled the legs of newsmen who asked what he meant when he hinted - at a possible secret meeting with President Eisenhower. He was asked - did he mean that seriously, or - in fun.

Khrushchev answered the question solemnly. "Yes", he declared, "the meeting took place yesterday. President Eisenhower flew to Indonesia, and I had a long and pleasant talk with him." Which certainly will surprise President Eisenhower, who is in the land of the Andes, a half a world from Jakarta. 5-4-60

SOVIET EXPLOSION

Officials of Finland are close mouthed - about reports of a giant explosion in Soviet Russia. A huge blast - on the Russian side of the Finnish border, near the Arctic Ocean. Today's dispatch from Helsinki says - the source of the information cannot be identified publicly. Finland being-extremely circumspect about anything pertaining to the Soviets.

But the word is that, on February second, Finnish woodcutters were startled - by a blinding flash in the sky. Followed- by a thundering sound. An explosion, apparently - in a Russian military base near the Arctic Circle - said to be a missile center - a storage place for intercontinental rockets. Which leads to the belief - that an accumulation of missiles blew up. No suggestion, though, that they were atomic.

PURVIS.

The suicide of Melvin Purvis comes as a footnote, a quarter of a century later - to a melodrama of the nineteen thirties. Purvis - the F.B.I. agent in charge of the pursuit of John Dillinger. Public enemy number one - in that era of headline desperados.

Time and again, Purvis and his men set their traps - for Dillinger. But in vain until that night at a moviet theatre in Chicago, when Dillinger, betrayed by "the woman in red" - was cornered and killed.

Melvin Purvis, ace of the F.B.I. retired finally - and became a lawyer and radio station operator at Florence, South Carolina. Now a suicide, at the age of fifty-six - suffering from illness and mental depression.

FILIBUSTER

In the Senate, the long grind is on. It will be called a filibuster, and the name seems to apply, but those who are doing it - and northerners have followed the practise almost as often as southerners in our history - those who are doing it prefer to dignify it by some other name.

This time a determined group of 18 Southern senators say they want to be sure that the nation has the opportunity to hear every aspect of the question before the Senate votes on a new, more liberal civil rights bill.

So the southern senators intend to explore every aspect - by talking continuously for an undetermined time. Their hope - that they can talk the civil rights bill to death - or at least delay Senate action until a bill more acceptable to them comes out of the House.

Today the captain of the Southern team, Georgia's

able Senator Richard Russell, served notice on the Senate that his determined group would use every parliamentary advantage they can find in the rule book to hold the floor until the northern senators weary of the fight.

CRONKITE

This reporter has just flown to Chicago from Squaw Valley. Yesterday I was talking to Lowell Thomas out there. Today he is off in some other remote place.

Lowell told me that he had received inquiries - why didn't he say more of the success of the Russians when he reported on the Winter Olympics last week.

Well, Lowell has a strong feeling about that. He quoted the founder of the modern Olympic games, the French Baron de Coubertin. Who stated that the ideal was - to consider only the performance of the individual athletes, DeCoubertin did not conceive of the Olympics as being a competition among nations.

Perhaps it is inevitable that the newsmen, following a popular conception, should begin compiling their own unofficial national standings at these games. The Olympic officials don't like it. They and Lowell go along with de Coubertin's original concept. But the

public and the athletes themselves follow the national standings which are now so much a part of the reporting of these games that all the news media agree on a single point system.

But Lowell points out that he thinks this is altogether unfair. One country has a vast population, from which to draw its athletes. Another country, only a comparative few.

This was vividly exemplified by the Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley. Russia, with a population of two hundred million - ahead by far. Sweden second - and Sweden has between six and seven million persons. About one-thirtieth of Russia's population. So Lowell says if you are going to yield to national considerations, Sweden should earn the glory. If the size of populations were considered Sweden would come out the winner - by far.

Lowell also points out that the Soviets cultivate intensely those forms of sport which prevail in Olympic

games. Types of athletics which are of only minor importance in the United States - which helps to explain why the Soviets ran far ahead of the Americans in such features as speed skating and cross-country skiing.

But there are a lot of our American sportsmen who think we would be better off if we put a little more emphasis on such sports - and that the Olympic competitions might help bring our failings in that regard to public attention.

At any rate, the Winter Olympics ended in a blaze of good fellowship. When the captain of the Soviet hockey team - helped the American hockey players to beat Czechoslovakia. By advising - the use of oxygen. Although Czechoslovakia is a Soviet satellite. A reflection of how the Olympic games can help ease tensions between east and west.

Now a word from Dick Noel.

JAPAN

Heres a reversal of an old story. Telling how a Chinaman talks for ten minutes or so, then the interpreter translating, says - "he say no."

In Tokyo, today, a name was bestowed on the new heir to the throne of Japan. The seven-day-old son of the Crown Prince and Princess. His name - Naruhito. With the title - Hiro-No-Miya. This is translated into English in the following words - "one who combines virtue with affection, omniscience, moral perfection and humanitarianism."

Quite a handle - in English.

Now here are some shorter words from Dick Noel.

ROBBERS

From Britain, today, we have a story - of cops and robbers. But all the cops do - is laugh and laugh.

At the city of Ilford - two gangs of safe-cracking burglars. Each, unknown to the other - planning to rob the safe of a dairy company.

So along comes gang number one - sneaking into the building. Ready - for the safe cracking job. But while they were at it, gang number two arrives - sneaking in. Gang number one hears the sound, and the burglars think - its the police. So they make a hasty get-away - through the rear of the building. The sound of which is heard by gang number two - and they think its the police. So they make a hasty get-away.

You can see why the cops of Ilford - are laughing. The more so - because the safe contained nothing but legal papers and ledgers anyway.

As Lowell would say, s - l - u - tomorrow.