

L. T. Buick-Fisher, Wed. Nov. 10, 1965

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

*Nothing like a calamity to bring out the best and the worst in us. And last night - no exception.*

*On the debit side - a panty raid in the blackout by some three hundred male students - on a woman's dormitory at the University of Syracuse.*

*On the plus side - this vignette: A woman attempting to cross Park Avenue in the pitch black - stumbled into a blind man. Apologizing - she admitted she was confused in the dark. Said the blind man - who lives in a world of perpetual darkness -- "Mam, let me help you cross the street."*

*At Carnegie Hall, Vladimir Horowitz was in the middle of a performance for university students, suddenly in the dark he went right on without missing a note.*

## BLACKOUT REFLECTIONS

*Are you tired of hearing about the blackout that suddenly complicated life for some twenty or thirty or forty million people last evening? Or, can you put up with a few more human interest incidents? I could do a whole broadcast on it - as many of you could do. For instance, one of the heads of the great Doubleday publishing company, the man who handles the headaches over some of the books that I write - I've just talked to Ferris Mack, who says he didn't get out to his home in nearby Long Island until the wee hours this morning. He walked, and hitch-hiked, tapping on the windows of automobiles and saying: "Hey," and so on.*

*When I called the Doubleday offices this morning, Gill, his secretary, hadn't yet shown up; but, more alarming, her sister who rooms with her, nothing had been heard of her at all.*

*I was lucky in that my room last night was only*

*up as high as the seventh floor at the Waldorf. But, as I climbed to that floor I met Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, trudging up and up and up, with a candle, and she said she still had twenty-three more floors to go!*

*In it - the Times lead editorial summed it up eloquently, describing it as "The domino effect of a break in a main feed line." Under the heading, "Aladdin's lamp blacks out," The Times says:- "Short of a nuclear bomb, the most crippling affliction ~~ka~~ that can befall a modern metropolis is a total power failure. The blackout that crippled New York and most of the northeast last evening was a dismaying reminder of the vulnerability of any community to a severing of its electric lifeline. It is hard to comprehend why a single break at one point in an inter-connected system compels a virtually complete suspension of service affecting nine states and two Canadian provinces."*



*And the editorial adds that "the result of last night's critical failure proved to be community paralysis beyond the dream of any saboteur."*

*A young doctor from Boston had flown down to talk to me about Lawrence of Arabia, a psychiatrist who plans to do a book on Lawrence, attempting to explain why he was the way he was - one of the most unusual men of modern times, who finally wound up as an enlisted man in the R A F - searching for escape.*

*When the blackout came, I wondered where I might take Dr. John Kack for dinner. On a hunch, we dropped in at the Marco Polo Club, at the Waldorf, where sure enough they had roast beef, already cooked. At a table next to us was Adolph Toigo, head of Lennon and Newell, one of the largest advertising firms in America, who startled us by saying "can you imagine the number of people who at this moment are trapped in elevators, all over this city?" Later, I learned that some buildings do*



*have a way of hand-cranking elevators down to the first floor in an emergency, there were many buildings where people were trapped between floors -- for hours and hours.*

*This morning I heard that at the Empire State Building they went so far as to knock out walls to enable people to escape from trapped elevators.*

*In the new Pan Am Building that dominates the lower end of Park Avenue, Juan Trippe, head of Pan Am, walked down some fifty flights. But, he's a rugged young man, only sixty-six.*

*Some French tourists were way up there on the Empire State Observatory terrace. What did they do? Why, they sang the Marseillaise, and then tried to teach it to some Americans, who had trouble with it and wound up singing Dixie and Sweet Adeline. How they got down, I don't know.*

## BLACKOUT REFLECTIONS - 5

*Think of it, eight hundred thousand rush-hour subway riders stranded, ~~st~~ thousands of off-duty police and the National Guard called out to help! Ten thousand still stuck in the subways at midnight.*

*During the blackout, as I walked up and down the blacked out streets of New York, bumping into this and that, I kept wondering, "Will this be a night of looting, a night of crime?" The answer seems to be that on the whole people behaved surprisingly well.*

*As you have heard, the President has ordered an investigation that already is under way - insisting that something be done to make sure that even in the direst national emergency, nothing like this ever happens again.*

## RICKOVER

*By the way, that power failure did prove quite a test of our national defense system , which came through - with flying colors, according to Vice Admiral Himan G. Rickover - who calls it "a providential warning."*

*The "deep lesson" to be learned - said he - is that "in any society as technologically complex as ours - we must expect these things, and we must plan on a national basis - to anticipate them."*



## VIET NAM

*Another big amphibious landing - today in Viet Nam. Three waves of U S Marines - hitting the beach twelve miles north of the Chu Lai Air Base. They call it Operation Blue Marlin - aimed at clearing the Viet Cong from strategic Highway One. As many as seven battalions of Communists are believed to be operating in the area.*

*The Navy task force that carried the Marines to the beach was shadowed for seven hours Monday by a Russian freighter, - that remained in International Waters - and finally disappeared without incident.*

## LONDON

*A brief announcement - today in London. That may foretell a major shift of British and American defenses - in the Far East.*

*The British - providing a group of islands ~~in~~ in the Indian Ocean, including the Chagos Archipelago - about nine ~~hundred~~ hundred miles south of Ceylon, ~~for the~~ future construction -- of joint Anglo-American facilities. To begin with - a joint air and naval communications center, That could be used as a staging base for air and naval forces - in the event of an emergency.*

*This presumably an alternate to British defenses at Singapore - recently threatened with eviction.*

## ERHARD

*The Texas White House today announced a forthcoming American visit - by West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, for talks - with President Johnson. At the same time Erhard himself announced in Bonn - that he will demand full and equal German participation in Nato nuclear defense, rather than a mere consultive role in nuclear policy - which is all we are willing to offer at present.*

*Erhard's visit is set for December Sixth - Seventh and Eighth, coinciding with the twenty-fifth anniversary of America's entry in World War Two.*



## HEART

*Twin heard surgery today in Chicago for Mr.*

*and Mrs. J. Alvin Dru-Yor of Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin.*

*The couple - both in their sixties - undergoing identical*

*open heart operations. Both successful - both patients*

*expected to be "up and walking" by tomorrow - and both*

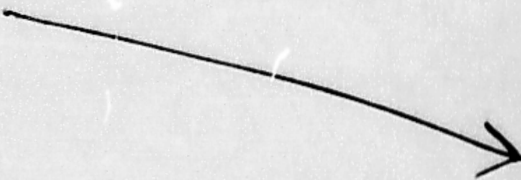
*scheduled for release from the hospital within ten days.*

*How's that for "togetherness," Warren?*

IKE

*At Augusta, Georgia -- former President Eisenhower's illness was diagnosed today - as a "coronary insufficiency." Not a heart attack -- but a mild form of Angina Pectoris -- caused by hardening of the arteries. Presumably a belated by-product - of that severe heart attack he suffered in Nineteen Fifty-five.*

*The doctors adding that Ike should be fully recovered - within two weeks. Noting, however, that the trouble - "could occur again."*



ADD IKE (late word)

*And there is a later report that the former President this afternoon suffered a recurrence of "chest discomfort" and his scheduled transfer to Walter Read Army Hospital will be delayed.*