

L.T.-OLDS. THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1961.  
(Hottelet substitute)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Kennedy tonight talked about Laos to the American people in a national broadcast news conference - said this country and its allies face a clear, one-sided threat to Laos which endangers the security of Southeast Asia. The President said that pro-communist dissidents in Laos are supported by elements from North Viet Nam and that Soviet planes have flown more than a thousand sorties since last December (with supplies for the rebels.) Their intention, said the President is to destroy the neutrality of Laos. Mr. Kennedy declared that the United States want a neutral Laos - and wants a peaceful solution of the problem - with a cessation of armed attacks - but if the other side does not permit this, he said, those who want a neutral Laos will have to consider their response, not

only in Washington but in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization - "I know - the President declared - that every American will want this country to honor its obligations to Laos." - Mr. Kennedy did not openly discuss armed intervention and we evaded questions about American military preparations in Southeast Asia - he is still working for a diplomatic settlement - but he indicated that he will not wait indefinitely - the longer the fighting goes on in Laos he said, the less satisfactory the situation is.

war was ruffling closer to Hanoi. Communist patrols have pushed to within fifteen miles - of the Capital city. Their war bulletins are becoming boastful - about a looming victory. And the Laotian Army is braced - for a last ditch effort to stem the Red tide.

All of which explains - the tough talk in Washington. The promise that we will not stand by - and see Laos disappear.

## LAOS

They held a celebration in Vientiane today - marking the eleventh birthday of - the Laotian Army. The dispatch from Vientiane describes - gaiety and fear. The city itself - a colorful spectacle of cheering crowds, marching men and martial music. King Savang Vathana took the salute - and General Phoumi Nosavan delivered the address to the troops. The General, in a fighting speech - told his men that they now have the situation in hand. Said he - "The storm is over."

Unfortunately, even as he spoke - the thunder of war was rumbling closer to Vientiane. Communist patrols have pushed to within fifteen miles - of the Capitol city. Their war bulletins are becoming boastful - about a coming victory. And the Laotian Army is braced - for a last ditch effort to stem the Red tide.

All of which explains - the tough talk in Washington. The promises that we will not stand by - and see Laos disappear.

## CUBA

The State Department in Washington is giving the newly-formed Cuban government-in-exile - moral support. But - no legal recognition. Meaning - the administration fully sympathizes with the forces bent on over-throwing the Castro dictatorship. But for this country to go further at this time - would violate both International Law and the National sovereignty of the United States.

Meanwhile, Jose Miro Cardona, head of the government-in-exile - repeats that a major drive on Castro's Cuba is being prepared right now. Will come soon. And is sure - to succeed. When will the Revolutionary Headquarters be moved - to Cuban soil? Miro Cardona refuses to prophecy - although he admits he's already thinking about it.

## ANGOLA

The walk-out of Portugal at the UN - was expected. Lisbon has said repeatedly - that Angola is a domestic affair. The African territory being legally - part of the Portuguese Nation. So Ambassador Vasco Garin's colleagues in the General Assembly - were not surprised that he refused to stay for their debate on Angola.

As for events inside the territory itself - the Portuguese Command is pressing the drive against the Terrorists. Planes, cooperating with ground forces - in a campaign of annihilation.

## ATOMIC

In Geneva, Soviet Delegate Tsarapkin said today: "I am waiting for Mr. Dean to make his presentation, piece by piece." Not a wry enthusiastic statement - and it was said with the stolid frigidity that we've learned to associate with Russian intransigence.

Arthur Dean had just explained another point - in our new proposals for a cheat-proof ban on atomic testing. The point - that we're willing to let Russian scientists inspect our older nuclear devices. Only the latest models to be kept under wraps - pending an agreement at the Geneva Conference.

The Dean statement was intended to show our good faith - and induce the Soviets to meet us half way. But Comrade Tsarapkin is still saying - "Nyet."

Here's an example - of the type of work that UPI correspondents do. This story from Moscow - written by the UPI correspondent.

## CENSORSHIP

The end of censorship in Moscow doesn't involve anything like - freedom of the press. Soviet news media remain - under strict Kremlin control. And even Western newsmen - still have a threat hanging over their heads. The threat of - expulsion from the Soviet Union. The Kremlin can give the boot to any newsman - who writes anything that the Communist hierarchy disapproves of.

Is there anything helpful - in the new Moscow ruling? Oh, yes. Westerners won't have to queue up for hours - at the Censorship Office. Nor will they find entire dispatches being thrown into the wastebasket by the Soviet Censor - when he objects to a single sentence.

Here's an example - of how the system used to work. UPI Correspondant Henry Shapiro once filed a story from Moscow - quoting a statement by Khrushchev.

When the story reached the Free World - Khrushchev's words had been deleted by the Censor. The key sentence read: "Khrushchev said today quote unquote."

Sounds amusing now. But Correspondant Shapiro didn't think so - at the time.



## WEATHER

The Spring of Nineteen Sixty-One - isn't doing right by us. Most of you can tell what I mean - by looking out the window. Rain is falling - along the West Coast. In New England, clear skies - but a thermometer below freezing. At Caribou, Maine, the noontime temperature - was just two degrees above zero.

For the Continent in between Maine and California - the weather adds up to snow, sleet, hail, rain, winds of gale force, and murky skies. Here in New York, the day began with heavy snow - and then gave us a dose of drenching rain. Which is continuing - tonight.

## ADMIRALTY

Prime Minister Macmillan has told the London House of Commons - that he's increasing security precautions at all Admiralty installations. The reason, needless to say - is yesterday's conviction of those five spies who stole top secret information from the Portland Naval Base. The British are always sensitive - about anything touching the Royal Navy. Especially - about anti-submarine strategy. That's why the Prime Minister is ordering the entire Admiralty - to double-check the Security System.

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and last record - of the past decade. Not a bad  
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Dick - are you young and fit?

## WILKINSON

We've heard a lot about Harvard men - in the Kennedy Administration. But what about football stars? First there was Whizzer White, the old Colorado all-American - joining the Justice Department. Then Forest Evashevski of Michigan and Iowa - said he'd be willing to serve in the Peace Corps.

Now Bud Wilkinson, who played quarterback for the Minnesota Powerhouses of the thirties - and later coached Oklahoma to a series of national championships. Under Bud Wilkinson, the Sooners ran up the best won-and-lost record - of the past decade. Not a bad recommendation for the man who is about to become head of our Youth Fitness Program.

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## COWBOY

A cowboy from Montana has revised the script -  
of the Western. Dale Morris, kissing his horse goodbye  
- and disappearing into the sunset, with the girl.

Morris was doing time in a Mississippi jail -  
when he offered to give the institution his horse. All  
he asked - was to be allowed to escort it from Arkansas.  
Since he was a Trusty - they said "okay." So Cowboy  
Dale Morris went off to Arkansas with two prison guards.

Well, they found the horse all right. After which  
Morris told the guards to take his mount back to  
Mississippi - while he lingered on in Arkansas long  
enough to get married.

He lingered - longer than that. In fact, he  
hasn't been heard from since. Dale Morris, the Montana  
ranch-hand - who prefers the girl - to his cow pony.

Now - as Lowell would say - So Long Until Tomorrow.