

L.T. BUICK, FISHER.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

As for that demand from DeGaulle -- for immediate talks between Washington and Paris, aimed at eventual liquidation -- of U.S. bases and supply lines in France, the answer was delivered swiftly today -- in no uncertain terms. President Johnson asserting flatly -- that the United States will not bargain away the foundations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Adding, once more, that our thirteen other NATO allies -- must have a voice in any such military discussions

The American answer - quick and to the point --to cancel any thought that America might be ready to abandon the NATO alliance.

CHINA

Dr. Doak Barnett of Columbia University -- first witness today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; at the opening of public hearings -- on America's China policy.

Dr. Barnett - ⁹who was born and raised in China - promptly endorsing American use of what he termed "measured force" -- in Vietnam.

At the same time -- he urged immediate abandonment of U.S. efforts to isolate China. On grounds that the current Red regime -- is "clearly and explicitly the government of mainland China;" so should be granted diplomatic recognition -- and finally admission to the United Nations, as soon as Peking gives an indication -- that it is ready for it.

AUSTRALIA

Another three thousand Australian fighting men -- soon to join allied forces in Vietnam. Official announcement of this today at Canberra -- by Australia's new Prime Minister, Harold Holt; thereby tripling Australia's commitment to Vietnam. Because -- said Prime Minister Holt -- Australia "cannot stand aside -- in the struggle to resist the aggressive threat of Communism in Asia."

VIETNAM

As for the latest -- from Vietnam, hundreds of U.S. jets today thundered into the skies over the communist North; blasting a missile site, destroying a strategic petroleum complex, and smashing dozens of other targets in their heaviest blow to date against North Vietnam.

Four American planes -- lost in this and of these one pilot was picked up by search and rescue craft. The other three -- listed as missing.

INDONESIA

The current state of confusion in Indonesia - heightened still further today by a pair of violent, almost simultaneous student demonstrations.

One - directed against the American embassy. The first anti-American demonstration in Jakarta - since that attempted leftist coup of last October. The other and by far the biggest demonstration - an anti-communist rally aimed at seizing and sacking Indonesia's own foreign ministry. Which it did.

The two demonstrations - apparently shattering Sukarno's hopes of achieving an accord between the rival student groups. ~~But what effect if any they will have on the government - that remains to be seen.~~

MALAYSIA

Incidentally, another brief anti-American demonstration today - at Malaysia's capital of ~~Kuix~~ Kuala Lumpur. A number of leftist students - protesting the arrival of American diplomat William Bundy, For a scheduled talks with Malaysian officials - on American policy in Vietnam. However, the action promptly branded by the government - as totally "un-Malaysian."

GESSNER

Meanwhile, here at
home a former Army nuclear weapons expert - sentenced to life
imprisonment in 1964 ^{- was} freed today at Leavenworth, Kansas.

George John Gessner - cleared of a charge that he passed nuclear
secrets to Russia ^{- cleared} by order of the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court at Denver.

The court holding that a confession from Gessner - was
obtained illegally through "coersion." The government thereupon
admitting that without the confession - it had no case.

LOZENGES

The nation-wide sale of so-called anti-biotic throat lozenges - banned today by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Which said: "there is no medical evidence" - that they do any good.

The sweeping order applying to all such lozenges - sold "over the counter." That is - without a doctor's prescription. The FDA further indicating that it may soon broaden the ban - to include so-called anti-biotic ointments - sprays, deodorants, etcetre.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The National unemployment rate for February -- down to 3.7 per cent of the total U.S. Labor Force. The White House calls this a "triumph" for the nation's economy. Marking the first time in 12 years -- that the jobless figure has fallen below four per cent.

POVERTY

Are we winning the war on poverty? Sergeant Shriver today said we are. This in testimony before the House Anti-Poverty Committee; testimony in support of an administration request -- for an additional 1.7 billion dollars in Anti-Poverty funds for next year.

TIME

At Long last -- a bill to standardise Daylight Savings time across the country -- approved today by the House Commerce Committee; and now seen as almost certain -- to clear Congress in the next few weeks.

The Bill providing that if a state or locality intends to go on Daylight Savings time this year - it must start in the last Sunday in April, and end it - the last Sunday in October.

The same six month period -- to apply every year from now on; with the added provision that every state would go on Daylight Saving next year -- unless its legislature voted otherwise. And, with no exceptions for local communities either way. How about that Warren? O.K.?

BASEBALL

A pair of all-time baseball firsts today - at St. Petersburg, Florida.

First number one - announcement that the venerable Casey Stengel - has just been elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. "Old Case" - who retired last year at 74 because of a broken hip - selected at a secret meeting of an Old Timers Committee. First man so honored - since a rules change. Waiving the traditional 5-year ~~period-when-he~~ waiting period. - ~~where the games senior statemen statesmen~~ are concerned.

The second first - provided by Casey himself when he was told of the news. For the first time in living memory - Casey Stengel was speechless.