

L.T. BUICK FISHER. TUESDAY APRIL 6, 1965

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.

Three beach boys convicted in one of the world's greatest jewel thefts -- sentenced to three years in prison today in New York. Those gems stolen from New York's Museum of Natural History; twenty-four of them in all -- including the fabulous Star of India -- valued at more than four hundred thousand dollars.

The sentence comparatively light because the defendants did cooperate in the return of most of the jewels. They could have been sentenced -- to up to twenty-one years apiece. Even at that -- the fabled DeLong Ruby -- one of the most precious of the stolen gems -- is still missing.

POPE

Plans for a revision in the Catholic stand on mixed marriages -- disclosed today at the Vatican. Pope Paul said to be preparing a new canon law -- ~~that~~ that would do away with the dual pledge required of non-Catholics -- under existing church law.

The non-Catholic partner -- now pledged to raise all children of the marriage as Catholics. Also, not to interfere in any way -- with the Catholic partner's profession of faith. But under the new plan -- the Catholic partner ^{alone} to assume a moral obligation -- to raise all children in the Catholic faith. The husband and wife mutually pledged -- ^{only} ~~to~~ to respect each other's religion.

COMSAT (Hold for expected 6:30 P.M. release)

The so-called "Early Bird" satellite soared skyward from Cape Kennedy today -- in the first space venture of the fledgling Communications Satellite Corporation. The Early Bird -- launched initially toward an egg-shaped orbit -- appropriately enough. Later to be maneuvered into a "stationary" orbit -- high over the South Atlantic. There to act as a telephonic space switchboard -- between the United States and Europe. The first link in a projected worldwide network of communications satellites -- scheduled for completion by the end of Nineteen Sixty-Seven.

CUBA

A high official in Castro's Cuban government --
executed
~~was~~ before a firing squad today -- as a "spy" for the U.S.)
Central Intelligence Agency. Manuel Izquierdo Gonzalez --
charged with supplying the CIA with "vital information" --
on such things as sugar sales and the movement of ships.
Until his arrest -- he was head of the Department of General
Affairs -- in the Havana Customs House. His execution -- the
third in Castro Cuba so far this year.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam today -- a savage battle in Communist-infested swamps -- a hundred and thirty miles southwest of Saigon. At least five Americans killed in the conflict -- heaviest in South Viet Nam since early March. Government casualties placed at -- fifty killed or wounded. The Communist dead -- said to number more than a hundred and twenty.

Meantime, U. S. military authorities in Saigon -- report today that the war for control of South Viet Nam -- ~~is~~ remains a stalemate. U.S. air strikes in recent weeks ^{are} ~~is~~ said to have brought about "some slight gain" -- in the five provinces around Saigon. But by and large -- the gains in these areas ^{are} ~~is~~ offset by losses in others.

BERLIN

That Berlin blockade -- was on in force again today. The Communists again closing the main highway to West Berlin -- for four-and-a-half hours. Again restricting the canal traffic -- in and out of the city. And Soviet Mig fighters again adding -- to the tense war of nerves. Buzzing West Berlin airports -- rattling city windows with their sonic booms -- and shadowing Western planes through the Berlin corridor.

One of the Soviet fighters sweeping within five hundred feet of the Templehof airfield, shortly before the arrival of West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard. Erhard an early arrival for that ^{extraordinary} meeting of the West German Parliament -- scheduled for tomorrow in West Berlin. The one that touched off ^{this} ~~the~~ latest chapter -- in the continuing Communist harrassment of the isolated city.

BRITAIN

Britain's Labor Government today unveiled a new austerity budget -- aimed straight at the pockets of nearly every Briton. The new budget -- a bid to ease Britain's strained balance of payments deficit. Calling for more than a half-billion dollars -- in new taxes. With price-hikes in prospect for liquor, beer and wine -- cigarets, automobiles and a whole host of items -- in common, everyday use in England. This to be coupled with a new and stiffer tax on capital gains-- as well as a government crackdown on expense-account spending.

As part of the austerity program -- Britain also scrapping its new supersonic jet bomber -- the trouble-plagued TSR-Two, [^] The British aircraft -- comparable to the American TFX fighter-bomber -- now known as the F-one-eleven. Indeed, the U.S. later disclosing that Britain has taken an option -- on a billion dollars' worth of F-one-eleven fighters. The American planes [^] ^{apparently} to fill the gap -- left by cancellation of the British TSR-Two.

WHALES

From Southampton, England -- a warning today that the whaling industry -- is on the verge of collapse. John Gulland -- of the British Fisheries Research Laboratory -- asserting that only the intervention of some international agency -- can save the whaling industry. And in the process -- save the whales themselves -- from complete extinction.

The blue whale -- the biggest animal in the world -- already fast vanishing from the face of the earth. This magnificent mammal -- the largest and heaviest creature -- that ever lived, ~~Reaching~~ reaching a bit over a hundred feet in length -- and weighing up to a hundred and fifty tons. The average blue whale -- as big as thirty large elephants -- or equal in bulk to three of the largest dinosaurs that ever lived.

~~But~~ Its great bulk ~~is~~ also its greatest enemy, ^{for} the blue whale yields an average of around -- forty thousand pounds of whale oil. And so it has become one of the prime targets -- of the modern-day whaling vessels from Norway, Japan and the Soviet Union.

WHALES--2

A hundred years ago -- there were a third of a million blue whales. Now -- in all the Seven Seas there are less than ten thousand -- with most of the rest destroyed within the last generation. The blue whales near-neighbor -- the finwhale -- also nearing extinction. According to John Gullard -- ~~conservation~~ ^{conservation} of these whales has failed for many reasons. But for none more than this: "The whale belongs to no one -- and therefore it is in no one's direct interest to look after them." And unless it becomes an international concern -- says Gullard -- the whale is doomed. Surely -- Dick -- there's a chance for the U.N. to do something!

HEALTH

In Washington, the all-important House Rules Committee today approved the new Medicare bill -- by a vote of ten-to-five. The measure now cleared for a floor vote -- with passage expected later this week -- then on to the Senate -- probably by Thursday.

The Medicare bill -- to provide a six-billion-dollar package of health benefits. Including a comprehensive medical insurance plan ~~for~~ for persons sixty-five and over -- financed through Social Security.