

L.T.-OLDS. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1962

(L.T. on South Sea Islands, Antarctica, Asia, Europe trip. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING:

The United States tonight launched its new "Relay" communications satellite into space in an effort to restore a "live" television link with Europe in time for an intercontinental Christmas program scheduled for next week. The one hundred and seventy-two pound satellite -- big brother of the famed Telstar -- was fired aloft from Cape Canaveral. Scientists aimed it toward an orbit ranging from eight hundred to forty-five hundred miles above the earth. The launch appeared normal but definite confirmation of orbit cannot be made until the vehicle has completed one circle of the earth, expected to take about three hours.

SKYBOLT

The British Broadcasting Corporation reported tonight that the United States has offered to let Britain continue on its own with the development of the Skybolt missile which the British had counted on as a nuclear deterrent. The reported plan by the United States to cancel the Skybolt program has created a rift in Anglo-American relations which threatens the future of the U.S. air and submarine bases in Britain. The BBC broadcast said it would cost the British government about eight hundred and sixty-eight million dollars a year to develop the air-launched missile.

TAX

A private economic research group -- the Committee on Economic Development -- tonight proposed that Congress enact a six billion dollar income tax reduction which would offer the greatest benefits to higher-income individuals and corporations.

In a formal statement, the often-influential group also called for a second-stage cut of an additional five billion dollars on the condition that Congress and the administration would hold federal spending at current levels next year -- an event that seems most unlikely. The report by the business supported researchers was issued just twenty-four hours before President Kennedy was to outline his proposals for a tax reduction next year in an address to the Economic Club of New York.

INTRO. TO L.T.

There seems to be a Little United Nations -- down near what used to be Little America. An international scramble -- for the South Polar regions. Anyway, that's what Lowell Thomas is finding -- at the ultimate South.

ANTARCTIC - #2

ANTARCTIC BRIEFING

Hello again, from down here near the South Pole! Admiral Tyree, who is about to retire as Commanding Officer of Project Deep Freeze, has been briefing us, telling us about the four permanent stations we now have here in the Antarctic; Hallett, where our people work along with a group of New Sealanders; McMurdo, largest of them all, our main base and administrative centre here on the Ross Sea; Byrd Station eight hundred miles from McMurdo; and a village under the ice, at the South Pole.

This year a fifth will be activated, way over on the edge of Marie Byrdland, at the base of the Palmer Peninsula, the part of the continent nearest the southern tip of South America. It is also in the same general area as the range of mountains that was named for me many years ago, and which I would like to visit.

Admiral Tyree tells us there are now eleven hundred and sixty-three Americans in the Antarctic, a hundred or so from New Zealand, Australia and England, a French base a few hundred miles up the coast; the Russians are on the other side of the continent. Argentina hopes to do something this year about its base; also the Japanese. But ours is the only country flying planes to the Antarctic from the "outside". We help all the others. The Russians? They send their people and supplies by ship.

As you probably have heard, the Antarctic continent covers an area almost twice the size of the United States.

Although teams of explorers have been coming here for half a century, most of the continent is still unexplored. The young scientists - - and it is a place for young men - - are at work in many fields; marine and land biology, geology, cosmic rays,

ionospherics, and there are aerial photographic experts busy photo-mapping an area about the size of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. In overall charge of our scientists is tall, blonde, twenty-nine year old Bob Mason, from Kansas. You can imagine the logistic problems in a region so vast, and where the temperatures are so low. Commander Bill Everett, a Navy flyer, is in charge of rescue problems. His men cover an area equal to the United States plus Mexico.

Admiral Tyree after giving us a brief panorama of what is going on, ended his remarks by urging us always to be fully equipped. As he put it: "Wherever you go, be prepared to walk home".

FOLLOW L.T.

Lowell, that sounds like the philosophy of -- a prudent young lady out for a spin with her boy friend. But, if it was a question of walking back home across the Antarctic ice -- well, that might leave any young lady in something of a dilemma.

CUBA

Attorney James Donovan said in New York today that the American Red Cross is joining his efforts to free Cuban invasion prisoners and he hopes to have them released by Christmas.

Donovan says we have had to wait until we got assurance that what was being done was in no way inconsistent with national policy. Donovan has offered to swap medicines, drugs and baby food to Cuban Premier Castro for the prisoners' release. The lawyer says no cash is involved and that supplies are being prepared for shipment to Cuba as rapidly as possible.

FLORIDA

That topsy-turney weather, or vice versa. Florida, noted for sunshine, is being hit with its worst freeze of the century -- citrus growers, vegetable farmers and ultimately the American housewives' market money. The final cost, still to be tallied, is certain to be counted in the millions. And the weathermen advise they can't promise a warm-up before tomorrow. So maybe, more crop damage. The trouble came in the form of twenty-three degree temperatures in central Florida. That state -- getting winter early, when normally it gets no winter at all.

Warm us up, Richard.

DRIVER

A Miami man has been arrested because his car ran off the highway, pulled back on, then continued, astride the center lane. This happened in West Palm Beach, and the fella might possibly serve six months in jail or a five hundred dollar fine.

Why did he drive that way? Well, it's against the law in Florida to watch television while operating a motor vehicle. And that's what he was doing -- watching a portable TV set on his dashboard.

So -- all you out there driving, pay attention, with your ears, we may ask questions.

And here's an answer from Dick Noel.