

L.T. BUICK, FISHER. DECEMBER, 3, 1965 -- FRIDAY

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here at Cape Kennedy -- Astronauts Frank Borman and Jim Lovell are ready -- as fit as they'll ever be; the "bird" that will carry them into space -- the Gemini-Seven -- as ready as human hands can make it; the worldwide network of tracking stations -- fully operational; recovery ships -- at the ready.

Now the difficult part: waiting; waiting for the weather -- for final clearance; waiting through the infinite procedure -- of checks and double-checks; waiting through the moments -- of that final countdown; waiting for blast-off -- set for two-thirty tomorrow afternoon.

The goal -- a fourteen-or-fifteen-day space endurance record -- and the first rendezvous in space.

So, while we sit here at Cape Kennedy and wait --

LEAD--2

~~look~~ let's take a look at the rest of this -- I was going to say cock-eyed world -- but I'll merely say let's see if anything's going on anywhere else? Yes, there is --

by Soviet scientists -- to steal the thunder from the American space
speculation, with a new Soviet rocket reported today from
Moscow -- on the eve of the flight of the lunar probe.

The Russian rocket -- was not a test -- but again
perhaps called the Luna 2. Even now -- appearing through the
medium -- in hopes of achieving a soft landing on the moon. A
first that Soviet has failed to accomplish so far -- in other words
lunar probes.

If all goes well this view -- might with the moon --
appear in about four days.

MOON

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As has happened so often in the past--another attempt by Soviet scientists--to steal the thunder from ^{our} American space spectacular. ^{set for tomorrow} With a new Soviet moonshoot reported today from Moscow--on the eve of the flight of the Gemini-Seven.

The Russian moonship--a one-and-a-half-ton space package dubbed the Luna Eight, Even now--streaking through the heavens--in hopes of achieving a soft landing on the moon. A feat the Soviets have failed to accomplish so far--in seven previous lunar probes.

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If all goes well this time--impact with the moon is expected in about four days.

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POLAND

The Communist Party of Poland lined up firmly with Moscow today--in the bitter feud that has split the world Communist revolution. A party statement from Warsaw--bitterly assailing Red China for the first time, ~~contending~~ ^{ins} that no political differences between Communists--"can justify an attitude ~~which~~ which rejects all international cooperation and solidarity--and proclaiming ^{ing} struggle and rift as the foremost task of our times."

The Polish position--obviously taken with Kremlin approval,--~~immediately~~ ^{ing} arousing speculation that Russia may be planning definite action against Red China--perhaps even a complete break in diplomatic relations.

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VIET NAM

In Viet Nam--an American helicopter crashed in flames and exploded today--near the big U.S. Marine complex at Da Nang. Four American Marines and nine Vietnamese soldiers--feared dead.

Elsewhere in the jungles, swamps and rugged highlands of Viet Nam--ground action dropped to the lowest point in months. A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon reporting that "there's been nothing--absolutely nothing--in the way of ground action." The lull--he added--already having lasted more than seventy-two hours.

~~In any case~~--American B-^{did}Fifty-twos continued to carry the war to the Communists. [^] Completing three strikes today--against Viet Cong targets in South Viet Nam, [^] including a massive attack on the Chu Pong Mountain area--in the Central Highlands. [^] Scene last month--of some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

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ETHIOPIA FOLLOW RHODESIA

Meanwhile, at Addis Ababa--first session today of the meeting of foreign ministers--of the Organization of African Unity. Chief topic--Rhodesia--as might be expected.

The keynote speaker--Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. The Lion of Judah urging Black Nationalists of Rhodesia--to adopt the slogan of America's Patrick Henry, "The slogan of--"give me liberty or give me death."

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Ghana's Kojo Botia, chairman of the organization, adding--
"let us cross the Rubicon--let us act so that the whole world will know--that we have sealed the fate of Ian Smith's regime."

~~Toward that end--a motion expected to be introduced within the next couple of days. Calling for joint military action against Rhodesia here and now.~~

ADD ETHIOPIA FOLLOW RHODESIA

Shortly thereafter--the African nations voting to break
diplomatic relations with Britain--en masse, ~~If~~ the British have
failed to put down the Rhodesian rebellion--by December Fifteenth.

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KLAN

At Montgomery, Alabama--three Ku Klux Klansmen were convicted of conspiracy today--in connection with the nightrider slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, ~~The~~ first white woman killed-- in the American civil rights movement. An all-white federal jury-- first reporting it was hopelessly deadlocked, ^{this} finally returning guilty verdicts--~~just~~ four hours after it was told to go back and try again.

This the second racial conviction in Alabama--in two days. All three men--immediately sentenced to ten years in prison.

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MEDICAL

A pair of favorable medical reports today -- on two noted convalescents. The first -- from Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington. News that former President Eisenhower -- "continues to improve." General Ike now able to walk unaided -- instead of riding in a wheel chair; with every possibility that he will be home at the farm -- at Gettysburg -- for Christmas.

The second -- from the Texas White House. A report that President Johnson has made a near-complete recovery -- from his own medical ordeal of October Eight -- and now virtually free of pain -- except when he makes a sudden or unexpected turn.

FRANCE

A new political technique -- new to France, at least -- made its appearance today in Paris, in the midst of last-minute campaigning -- for Sunday's French Presidential election. Bumper stickers -- on French cars, reading "If you hand over your car to your seventy-five-year-old grandfather in what condition do you expect to get it back in seven years?" And "vote for Lecanuet."

Jean Lecanuet -- who has provided an unexpected challenge -- to the favored candidate for another seven-year term as French President -- seventy-five-year-old Charles DeGaulle, who today made his second and final campaign speech; warning French voters that their choice in Sunday's election -- will "undoubtedly decide forever" the fate of France.

Implied -- but not stated -- a hint that he would quit as President -- if he fails to get more than fifty per cent of the votes. The amount he needs -- to prevent a run-off election.

NAZIS

Headquarters of the American Nazi Party in Arlington, Virginia--were seized and padlocked today by the Internal Revenue Service, for non-payment of some five thousand dollars in back taxes--mostly income taxes. George Lincoln Rockwell--self-appointed feuhrer of the organization--promptly commenting--"The American Nazi ~~party~~ ^{party} is now in the hands of the government."

Better that--than the other way around, ^{Warren!} ~~wouldn't you~~

say?

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MAY

Now here's real news today from Washington: Mrs. Craig has decided to call it a day.

May Craig -- something of a White House institution; she of the rather goofy hats and the keen, canny questions -- a ~~fan~~² favorite of Presidents she has been too, especially the late President Kennedy -- who said she could always be counted on to enliven a dull news conference.

May Craig retiring as Washington columnist for those Maine newspapers, because she's tired, says May, and wants to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Prompting a reporter to wonder -- "Mam, would it be fair to ask your age?" May Craig replying -- "Yes, it would be fair -- but I'm not going to tell you."