

(San Francisco)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The British Lion is becoming less and less a lion.

Despite strong appeals from Washington -- London announced plans today for cutbacks in British armed forces strength. This to include complete withdrawal of troops from the Far East -- and even the phasing out of the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier fleet by the mid-1970's.

The plans for Labor governments Prime Minister Harold Wilson were included in a white paper covering over-all British defense strategy for the next decade. The document reflected, aside from vital economic considerations -- Britain's apparent growing emphasis on cooperation with continental Europe.

The scheme drew frowns in Washington, where U.S. officials appealed to Prime Minister Wilson to maintain British military presence East of Suez -- "at least for a-

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while longer."

But apparently the Labor government is turning a deaf ear to U.S. pleas -- even British forces in Singapore and Malaysia will be cut by fifty per cent during 1970-71 -- and will be completely withdrawn by the mid-1970's.

Officials in this country are much concerned over the psychological impact such an announcement by Britain will have among friendly nations in Asia.

The White Paper calls for an overall cutback in British defense strength -- so that by the mid-seventies it will be one fifth its present level.

Wilson's Labor government is committed to keep defense expenditures below five-point-six billion dollars -- and expects a saving up to at least eight hundred and forty million by the mid-1970's by the drastic cutbacks.

Sharp military reductions overseas -- plus economic savings at home -- this to the ~~aim~~ aim of Britain's Labor government.

## HONG KONG

Meanwhile British authorities at Hong Kong were keeping the pressure on pro-Peking agitators.

Another raid today -- the British police using acetylene torches to cut through iron doors of a leftist headquarters to seize suspected leaders of the eleven-day uprising. Ten arrested.

But violence continues, with terrorists throwing bombs at a police station, a health center and a post office.

**HUMOR**

One further note about that unsuccessful call for a shipping strike in Hong Kong.

As authorities watched with amusement -- one of the first ships to come into the harbor was a Red Chinese merchant freighter -- ready to do business as usual.

## GROMKYO

Another warning from the Russians today on the Middle Eastern situation, but strangely -- no call for action.

Foreign Minister Gromyko -- in a letter to the U.N. Security Council president, saying war might break out again, unless Israel withdraws immediately from Arab lands.

Gromyko accused Israel of "continuing aggressive military provocations in the Suez Canal area." and he said -- the soviet government considers the clashes -- "extremely dangerous and could develop into a wider military conflict."

But -- Gromyko didn't ask for any further meeting of the Security Council. From all indications, he'll head home to Moscow on Friday.

## SOUTH VIET NAM

South Viet Nam's National Assembly, overruling its own electoral committee, has approved the presidential candidacy of the Chief of State, Nguyen Van Thieu, and his running mate, Premier Nguyen Cao Ky.

The show-down vote came hours after the electoral Committee refused to approve the military ticket.

The crisis developed to such a tension that the ruling military junta ordered a standby troop alert.

But, in the pre-dawn hours this morning, the presidential ticket was authorized, and South Viet Nam is ready for an election -- September 3rd.

## RAILROADS

They're working on the railroad, again -- but not all of them are singing about it.

Most of the shop-craft unions bowed to the government's back to work law -- but some insisted on a Federal court directive before they'd report to work.

In St. Louis -- pickets appeared outside the Missouri Pacific Building in the downtown area, and two-thousand office workers refused to cross their lines. Pickets also tarried at Missouri-Pacific installations in Kansas City and Little Rock.

But perhaps the loneliest picket of the day was a man walking back and forth in front of the Texas-Pacific depot in downtown Fort Worth, after all his colleagues had returned to work.

"Nobody told me to quit"! said he!

## PRESIDENT

A blue-ribbon panel is all set to study the long-standing railroad dispute.

President Johnson announcing that he has selected a group of distinguished citizens from business, labor and government to seek a permanent settlement of all this rail labor strife. The President added: he's "very hopeful of an agreement."

Heading the board will be Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon -- a one-time mediator. Serving with him will be Frederick Kappel, former President ~~and~~<sup>9</sup> of AT&T; George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO; former Senator Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, and Theodore Keel, the veteran mediator who played a key role in the rail negotiations of 1964.

The panel will administer the new anti-strike legislation just passed, starting with regular negotiations, and going on to compulsory arbitration, if required.



The announcement of the panel was the start of one of those informal Presidential news conferences, which L.B.J. enjoys calling on short notice.

He also announced that German chancellor Kurt Kiesinger will visit Washington August 15th & 16th; and, he anticipates a new summit meeting, of the Viet Nam allies in the next few weeks, or months.

He side-stepped questions about a possible halt to the bombing of North Viet Nam. The most he would say on that subject was that this country is ready to meet "tomorrow, next week, or anytime" with Hanoi's representatives or any of their friends, to discuss the end of the war.

Finally -- Mr. Johnson said he still believes -- strongly -- that a tax increase will be needed this year. He's standing behind his recommendation of a six per cent surcharge -- but he said -- this might be adjusted after further study. Also he deplored the race rioting in New Jersey.

## NEWARK

Is the rioting in Newark really over? New Jersey may have more rioting, say some observers.

Negro leaders from three states meeting in Newark -- have warned of the possibility of more violence, with the result that Jersey City has cancelled all police leaves.

It's Mayor saying:

"We remember the riots we had in 1964, and we're going to try to nip this one in the bud."

that federal employees agitated publicly against the city of Newark, and against the Board of Education.

## FOLLOW NEWARK

Background on the New Jersey situation was given Congress today. A police official saying how he told Sargeant Shriver last May that riots and anarchy would result in Newark, if anti-poverty workers continued agitating -- arousing the poor.

Senator Prouty of Vermont also read to the Senate poverty subcommittee a telegram from the Newark police director -- a wire to Shriver demanding that such practices be stopped, and forthwith. The head of the Newark police had charged that Federal employees. agitated publicly against the city of Newark, and, against the Board of Education.

Here in California -- Governor Reagan has just completed a news conference in Sacramento -- saying California is fully prepared to deal with racial violence this summer -- but he hopes a meeting tomorrow with negro leaders will head off trouble.

The governor said he'll listen to their problems and proposals, then he added "we will be prepared in case our efforts fail." He said the State's procedures already have been planned.

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Under questioning by the senators, publisher John Hay Whitney

## NEWSPAPERS

The obituary of a great newspaper.

"We were willing to give it to somebody who's carry on publication -- but nobody would take it as a gift." The words of Jack Howard, President and General Editorial Manager of the Scripps Howard newspapers, as he testified today before the Senate anti-trust committee. That committee -- looking into legislation to give failing newspapers limited exemption from anti-trust laws.

Jack Howard said such legislation is essential to the survival of many newspapers in this country. He told how the defunct New York World-Journal-Tribune -- owned jointly by Scripps-Howard, Hearst and John Hay Whitney -- lost money heavily -- despite good acceptance by readers. The reason? Sharply rising costs which have created an economic situation in which even a top flight newspaper may fail.

Under questioning by the senators, publisher Jack Howard

said he'd rather sell a newspaper to an outsider who would  
continue publication -- than to a competing local paper  
which would fold it. But in the case of the New York  
World-Journal-Tribune -- no takers -- even as a gift.

## MEXICAN MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS

Those Mexican mountain climbers are now on the second half of their ascent, the ~~eastern~~ eastern sheer face of California's Mount Whitney -- the <sup>highest</sup> highest mountains here in what the Alaskans call the South 48. Yes, ~~these~~ <sup>they</sup> are scaling this 15,000 foot peak the hard way -- making their final assault up what's called "The East Chimney" route. This involves scaling a near-vertical wall -- eight hundred and ten feet of sheer precipice near the top ~~side~~ of Mount Whitney. What's more it has never been successfully climbed from this approach. The Californians, it's what the North Wall of the Eiger is to Alpinists in Switzerland. As they say in Mexico S-L-until mañana -- Warren.