

August 9, 1972  
Robert Trout

## HANDGUNS

*Good Evening:*

*After days of debate, the U.S. Senate voted, Sixty-Eight to Twenty-Five, to stop the sale of the kind of handguns that can be easily hidden. The bill the Senate passed, and sent to the House, was sponsored by Indiana's Democratic Senator Birch Bayh, who says: "This will take out of the market place the weapons that are most frequently used by criminals."*

*What the bill does is prohibit the sale of short-barrelled pistols, some of which are of high quality, but most are the cheap, lightweight type known as Saturday night specials. About a million of the short-barrelled handguns are sold every year; the bill does nothing about those that have already been sold and are now in private hands.*

## **MCGOVERN**

*Campaign 'Seventy-Two - "the first day." So proclaimed - by George McGovern; as he and his new running mate, Sargent Shriver - were off and running today.*

*First stop - a breakfast meeting with Democratic mayors; where McGovern made, what he called "a flat commitment" - to work for the speedy passage of one of President Nixon's key proposals; revenue-sharing. Said Senator McGovern: "We've got to make a choice as to where our enemy is. Is it in Hanoi - or is it in the cities in the form of drugs and crime."*

*Next - a meeting with the National Women's Caucus; Senator McGovern pledging that women will have a "co-equal status" - "from the top of the campaign to the lowliest position;" then - a similar pledge to the party's Spanish-speaking caucus. There McGovern said: "The Latin-American community in this country - is going to be represented in proportion to its numbers in this campaign."*

*The Democratic candidate - also met with*

*Democratic Senators and Governors, reportedly giving them assurances that he will not enter their various states - without prior consultation.*

**COMMITTEE FOLLOW MCGOVERN**

*The Democratic National Committee met again today - supposedly in the spirit of party unity, and plunged into a brief, heated debate - over party control; finally ending in a compromise.*

*The McGovern forces to remain in power - at least through November. And after that - it depends on the outcome of the election. Today's action paves the way for a drastic overhaul of the committee - if it is considered necessary after the election.*

## CONNALLY FOLLOW COMMITTEE

*The "Democrats for Nixon" drive; was launched today - by former Secretary of the Treasury John Connally; who charged that Senator McGovern has turned the Democratic Party - into "an ideological machine:" one that is now closed to millions of loyal Democrats.*

*More of the same from New York; where the former head of the Congress of Racial Equality endorsed President Nixon "unequivocally." Floyd McKissick adding that Black participation in the Republican Party - will open still "another avenue to advance the cause of the black people."*

## **HUE**

*In the war - an attempt was made today to beef up the defenses - at South Vietnam's ancient imperial capital of Hue. The authorities in Saigon - sent in an additional six hundred troops, assigned to key infiltration routes; serving as an added precaution - against the possibility of another Tet-type attack.*

*Some thirty miles to the North - the battle for Quang Tri City continues to drag on, and is at the moment mainly an artillery duel with both sides apparently biding their time.*

## **BELFAST-NEWRY**

*In Northern Ireland - this first anniversary of the British policy of internment brought with it - a series of Catholic protest demonstrations; including, in Belfast - an anti-British rampage by hundreds of children; some - said to be as young as ten years old.*

*The youngsters reviled British troops - stoned British Army posts - hijacked and burnt buses and cars - stopped a train and tried to set it afire - even tried to ram one police post with a crane; no one seriously hurt; the day's lone fatality, at last report was terrorist attempting to plant a bomb on the outskirts of Newry - when the bomb went off in his face. Victim Number Five Hundred and Two in three years of violence - proving to be his own executioner.*

## MOSCOW

*For the first time since World War Two - the sound of military explosives echoed and reechoed across Moscow today, as The Soviet Army blasted trenches hundreds of yards wide - in an effort to contain the vast peat and brush fires in the nearby boglands. While Soviet Officials said that criminal proceedings have already been started - against an unspecified number of persons; said to have started it all - through "criminal negligence, carelessness and mishandling of fire."*

*The city of Moscow is still enshrouded in thick black smoke, and a local newspaper notes that "everything from the walls of houses to subway trains to the trees in Gorky Street - seems to smell of smoke."*



## **KARACHI**

***In Pakistan's Sind Province - which includes Karachi - eight Pakistani political leaders were picked up and tossed into jail today, in an attempt to head off the possibility of additional language riots - like those that have now claimed at least eighteen lives. The Chief Minister of the province - also closed schools and colleges until further notice, pledging "all necessary action to restore peace and tranquility" to defeat the "forces of anarch and chaos."***

**DALLAS**

*A story of instant justice - from Dallas, Texas; where a young mother was summoned to police headquarters - to pick up her nine-year-old son who was caught stealing plums. The mother arrived at headquarters with a switch - which she applied on the spot. Leaving police plum full of respect - and her son plum sorry.*

## MILAN FOLLOW KARACHI

*In thirty-three provinces in Northern Italy - a massive police crackdown: more than five thousand "carabinieri" - setting up hundreds of roadblocks; checking some sixty-four thousand persons - and more than forty-five thousand vehicles; putting on a series of coordinated raids - and inspecting more than five thousand business establishments.*

*The net result is: More than twelve thousand traffic fines - and hundreds of arrests for any number of suspected crimes and the police also seized large quantities of illicit material - including firearms, explosives, pornographich photos, pilfered paintings - every kind of contraband except, smuggled spaghetti.*

**SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "CALIFORNIA"**

**Next - Lowell Thomas; with a dispatch tonight -**

**from the ecological front. Lowell... (5)**

*California*

*Off the coast of California, the case of the disappearing kelp - finally solved. Full story - as follows:*

*The kelp, as you perhaps know - a giant seaweed; growing faster than any other plant in the world - two feet and more in a single day; with a single plant - sometimes reaching as much as two hundred feet in length.*

*But more than that - kelp is the source of a valuable chemical called algin; a chemical used to smooth and thicken - more than three hundred different products; everything from ice cream and spaghetti sauce - to paints and toothpaste.*

*The California kelp crop - thus bringing in Tens of Millions a year; till sometime around Nineteen-Fifty - when it suddenly began to disappear.*

*Enter Wheeler North - a professor of environmental sciences at Cal Tech; who explored the vanishing kelp beds for years with scuba gear - probing, studying, experimenting and now at last - coming up with the culprit.*

CALIFORNIA - 2

*It's the lowly sea urchin. Actually, a plague of sea urchin - much like a plague of locusts here on land; nipping off the kelp plants at their bases - with the giant fronds simply floating away. All caused by the fact that man has virtually wiped out - the sea urchin<sup>'s</sup> most effective enemy, the sea otter.*

*Ah, but Professor North also reports - in the current issue of the National Geographic - new help for kelp; a dosage of quicklime - said to be extremely deadly to sea urchin but apparently harmless to other sea life. And once again - says Professor North - "the ecological balance has been tipped in man's favor." For now, anyway.*

**SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "CALIFORNIA"**

**Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.**

(S)

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible. It appears to be a transcript of a story or a speech. Discernible fragments include:]*

*... political ...*

*... large ...*

*... said ...*

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*... in the ...*

*Good night.*

## DENVER

*From Denver - a story with the central character Congressional candidate Clarence Decker; who says that political campaigning is "a rough life" - and he had the bite marks to prove it.*

*Democrat Decker explains he was canvassing his district, door-to-door - when suddenly he encountered a large mongrel dog. "I knew the dog was watching me" - he said - "and as long as I was facing him he stayed away; but as soon as I turned my back - than he took the first bite."*

*Far from being daunted. Mr. Decker insists - he's in the race to the bitter end. Not to mention the bitten end.*

*Good Night.*