

Good Evening Everybody:

When President Johnson decided to go to the L.B.J. Ranch for the Easter holiday - he knew it would be a working vacation. But he knew nothing of the major problem that would take up most of his time. Namely - the Alaska earthquake.

That seismic catastrophe struck - after the President and First Lady arrived at their Texas home. And since then, Mr. Johnson has held a series of conferences and briefings. The latest, with General Lassiter of the Alaska desk - at the Pentagon. The General, showing the President aerial photographs of Anchorage, Seward, Valdez and Kodiak. The places hardest hit - and most in need of Federal assistance.

I say "hardest hit" because these are populated areas that we know about. But the geological

JOHNSON

cataclysm may have been worse - out in the wilderness.

Who knows how badly the crust of the earth may have

buckled at other places in that vast northern land?

The Alaskan tremors were triggered by nuclear explosions in the Soviet Union, atomic bombs were launched off in Siberia - 2000 years ago - so says Sven Svanesson, the Swedish seismologist from Stockholm, who believes that they started a chain reaction. Radioactive particles exploded - until they tore the crust of the earth apart across Bering Strait.

Apparently the only scientist who believes this - is Sven. What says Father Lynch, famous seismologist of Fordham? "Bunk, with a capital B" says he. That's what he thinks of the theory of

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SEISMOLOGIST

In Stockholm, a Swede with the fairly common name of Sven Svontson, is - a seismologist. An expert - on earthquakes. And his theory is that the Alaskan tremors were triggered by - nuclear explosions in the Soviet Union, atomic bombs were touched off in Siberia - over a year ago - so says Sven Svontson, the Swedish seismologist from Stockholm, who believes that they started - a chain reaction. Radioactive particles, exploding - until they tore the crust of the earth apart across Bering Strait.

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ARABIA

The fall of King Saud of Saudi Arabia - has an obvious moral. The land of the Bedouin may be about to move from the "Arabian Nights" - into the twentieth century. Some travelers - will lament the change.

There was always something exotic and colorful about King Saud's domain with its walled cities and all his palaces, even including the Western gadgets he had imported. His cars - mostly Cadillacs - were not unlike - the chariots of Scheherazade. And his planes - weren't they modern magic carpets?

But King Saud, sixty-three years old and in poor health, is stepping out and his brother Prince Feisal has pledged to make Saudi Arabia - into a twentieth century state. Hence, the vote of - the Council of Ministers. Feisal now taking over - all political power, with Saud Ibn-Saud retaining only the title - of King. Just the title.

High on the list of Feisal's reforms - a

power plant to generate more electricity. Instead of Aladin's magic lamp the vast power of modern machinery. The land of the "Arabian Nights" about to see the dawn of a new day.

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In fact, the downtown stores that are still standing - would have been back in business, except for - the police and club defense. The authorities, taking no chances - while wrecking crews are knocking down ruined buildings

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ANCHORAGE

It seems hard to believe - but we are told that Anchorage is, to some extent getting back to normal - that is, away from the devastated heart of the city. Most of the telephones are now back in order. Water, electricity, has, have been turned on again. And a lot of businesses - suburban banks, for example - have opened their doors.

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Governor Egan - "special legislation by the Congress of
the United States".

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refused to say. In other words, Castro is taking
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China.

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Boss of the Kremlin is up against. Around Budapest,
they feel sure - that Khrushchev is in their city to
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summit conference - unless he's sure that a majority
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KHRUSHCHEV

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BRAZIL

Rio De Janeiro - Federal Troops garrisoned in Minas Gerais State, Brazil's second largest, rebelled against the leftist government tonight. The State Government likewise declared itself in revolt. This is eighty miles north of Rio.

One point about this border war - it's becoming more sophisticated. We've been hearing about Somali tribesmen armed with spears, clubs - and rifles of World War Two vintage. Tonight's dispatch mentions tanks and anti-aircraft guns.

A sign of advancing civilization - I suppose. The Somalis, using modern weapons against the Ethiopians - on the Horn of East Africa.

SOMALIA

The fighting between Ethiopians and Somalis is growing more intense - as the deadline for a ceasefire approaches. Reason - each side wants to hold as much territory as possible. Enough to bargain with - at the conference table.

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NEPAL

Cargo planes are flying across Nepal tonight - dropping food by parachute. An emergency air drop - because of the Nepalese famine. The monsoon didn't bring enough rain - this season. The harvest, so poor ^{many will} ~~that the~~ people have been living on roots.

That's why King Mahendra ordered the air drop - based on Katmandu. Food by parachute for the Nepalese - who live in the shadow of Mount Everest.

PIETA

In Rome, one art critic has this to say -
"I hope the dispute continues indefinitely". Meaning -
the dispute over Michelangelo's "Pieta". Many
critics oppose the idea of transporting the masterpiece
to the New York World's Fair. They are afraid - it
might get damaged. Didn't the Venus de Milo get
bumped on the way to Japan the other day - they say?

That question of possible damage is what's
holding up the proceedings. The American and Italian
experts - can't agree on the packing material to be
used. The Americans want - foam plastic. The
Italians - wood shavings.

While they talk the matter over - the
monumental piece of sculpture remains where it has
been since the sixteenth century. Michelangelo's
"Pieta" - in Saint Peter's. Where many art critics -
hope it remains.