

WT, BUICK, FISHER, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1965

WEATHER

Heavy snow and powerful winds lashed the Midwest today--in one of the worst storms in years. The Arctic blast now in its third day--raging across a six-state area from Tennessee to Michigan.

The snow whipped by winds up to fifty miles an hour--creating drifts up to six feet deep. Hundreds of schools closed--and traffic at a near standstill throughout the stricken area.

/A state of emergency declared at Gary, Indiana, with that steel city buried under twenty inches of snow. Far south in Tennessee, Memphis virtually isolated for a time--with snowdrifts blocking all major roads in and out. The cold knifing all the way to the Gulf of Mexico--with tree-toppling winds raking the South Atlantic coastline.

The storm now moving on the northeast--with the death toll so far at more than forty lives.

BOY FOLLOW WEATHER

One of the most tragic deaths -- that of nine-year-old Walter Wesley Butler.

The youngster placed by his mother recently in a Boys' Ranch at Goldsmith, Texas -- a haven for orphans and children from broken homes. But lonely and homesick -- young Walter setting out on foot Monday night to rejoin his mother. Her home -- thirty miles away.

The weather mild when he started out -- but howling winds quickly dropping the temperature to eleven degrees.

The youngster found dead today in a clump of mesquite -- where he had apparently sought shelter -- fifteen miles from home.

This bitter bit of irony: The youngster having refused a lift that might have saved his life -- because he had been told never to ride with strangers.

VIET NAM

From the White House today -- a Presidential reply to U.N. Secretary General U Thant's plea for East-West talks. Talks that might permit the United States to "withdraw gracefully" -- from South Viet Nam.

Presidential Press Secretary George Reedy stating that the President would welcome any move -- that might reasonably assure the peace and security of South Viet Nam. But Reedy emphasizing that the President has not authorized any such negotiations -- nor is he ~~now~~ contemplating any such negotiations.

Pres Sec.

Reedy reaffirming U.S. insistence that the Communists honor the Geneva agreements of Nineteen Fifty-Four - providing for Vietnamese independence. Asserting that until they do -- the U.S. will continue to take all steps necessary to meet Red aggression.

RUSK FOLLOW REEDY

Secretary of State Dean Rusk -- later elaborating on Reedy's remarks, ^{saying} ~~Rusk asserting~~ that political channels have been and are open -- but calling them useless in the face of "a systematic campaign of terror -- aimed at the overthrow of South Viet Nam." Adding that a negotiation aimed at the acceptance or confirmation of aggression -- "is not possible."

LIBRARIES

American officials today received permission to reenter two U.S. libraries in Indonesia. The libraries those at Jogjakarta and Surabaya -- stormed by anti-American demonstrators last year and later seized by the government.

President Sukarno personally granting access to the buildings -- but only to take inventory and assess damages. The possibility of reopening the libraries remains under -- "continuing discussion."

JUDGE

In Meridian, Mississippi, Judge Harold Cox today dismissed Federal felony charges against seventeen men -- the defendants all charged with plotting the deaths of three civil rights workers last summer -- at Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Judge Cox ruling that the Federal indictment in the case ^{-- as he puts it: --}

"surely states a heinous crime against the State of Mississippi -- but not a crime against the United States."

SPACE

Our purpose in exploring space is not and never will be one of national prestige -- that pledge today from President Johnson. The ultimate goal of the U.S. space program -- according to Mr. Johnson -- to bring all nations together in the exploration of space -- for the good of all mankind.

The President's remarks highlighting a briefing in Washington -- on the progress of the Mars-bound Mariner-Four. The Mariner-Four currently, ~~was~~ in its eighty-ninth day of flight -- about twenty-three million miles from the earth. Its television cameras now expected to sweep the Red Planet Mars -- some time around eight P.M. on July the Fourteenth.

COMMUNISTS

The Communist Party of the United States was reindicted today -- for failure to register as a subversive organization controlled by the Soviet Union. The Communist Party previously convicted on the same charge -- and fined one hundred twenty thousand dollars. But that conviction thrown out on a technicality.

Today's indictment supposedly covering all legal loopholes. Nevertheless, an attorney for the Party predicting that the Government will have "as little success with this indictment -- as they had" with the last one -- meaning "no success at all." That from the Communist Party.

PRIEST

A young British priest was stripped of all "public priestly functions" today -- for advocating "some sort of artificial birth control." Father Joseph Cocker, twenty-six, suspended from his parish at Ryde -- on the Isle of Wight.

A church statement noting simply that Father Cocker --

"has chosen to oppose the accepted and authoritative teaching of the Roman Catholic Church."

TELEVISION

This next item comes from Sanford, North Carolina -- and it concerns a vision -- about television. A lay preacher named Christopher McMillan -- reporting a vision in which he was instructed to bury his television set.

So, -- says McMillan -- he did just as he was told. He dug a six-foot grave in his front yard -- buried the set there -- and marked the spot with a tombstone. The marker inscribed with the date and these words: "TV is the devil's greatest source of evil. Put your house in order. Reporting time is near."

But in the meantime -- says McMillan -- radio is okay. *Do you agree, Dick?!*

FISH

Here's a fish story to end all fish stories. The FBI today cracking an ambitious scheme to fish for money -- that is in the night depository of a Pennsylvania bank.

The unlucky fisherman identified as one Harold Lee Conklin -- of Susquehanna, Pennsylvania. According to the FBI -- Conklin dropped a make-shift fish net part way down the shaft of the night depository. Expecting to retrieve whatever money was placed there -- after the depositors had left.

Unfortunately -- for Conklin -- the first depositor to come along -- dropped in a heavy bag of coins. The fish net tearing loose under the unexpected weight -- falling to the bottom of the shaft -- where bank officials found it the next day. An intensive investigation finally tracing the fishing paraphernalia -- to Conklin.

The bandit fisherman trapped -- you might say -- by the one that got away.