

L.T. AMERICAN TOBACCO, PLOUGH. DECEMBER 29, 1967

(DALLAS TOWNSEND, sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

U.S. officials are reported giving very serious consideration to Cambodian Prince Noradom Sihanouk's offer to discuss American objections to Communist sanctuaries on Cambodian soil. In an interview, published in The Washington Post, Sihanouk also made the unexpected announcement that he would not intervene militarily if American troops engaged in what he called: "Limited combat", with North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in certain Cambodian areas. The State Department had no immediate official comment on Sihanouk's remarks which came as a considerable surprise. The Prince also was quoted as saying he would be willing to discuss the entire problem with a representative of the United States.

The North Vietnamese government joined Red China today

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in promising the Cambodians "firm support" in repelling any American military intursions.

And in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko says Russia has resolved to give Hanoi "the aid and support necessary" in the new year.

JOHNSON

President Johnson spent a busy day at the LBJ Ranch. He talked with Doctor Christian Barnard the South African surgeon who recently performed the first heart transplant operation. The President also studied the latest Vietnam war reports, signed a number of bills, looked over his budget, and gave the Secretary of Commerce, Alexander Trowbridge, sweeping new powers in the field of rural development. Among other new responsibilities, Trowbridge will have a hand in budget matters for the Appalachian regional commission, which expects to spend two-hundred-fifty-million dollars this fiscal year.

Dr. Barnard - by the way - told newsmen after seeing the President that he thought Mr. Johnson looked worried and very tired. But Barnard added that the President perked up later on - while driving him around the LBJ Ranch.

SAILORS

Four American sailors - who deserted their ship last October in a protest against the war - have arrived in Stockholm asking the Swedish government to grant them political asylum. Swedish officials say the four can stay in the country for the time being, pending a decision on their application to remain there permanently. The Americans say if Sweden refuses them asylum, they plan to return to Russia where they were guest of the Soviet Union for the past six weeks. But recently there have been indications that the Russians would be just as happy if they did not come back there.

CONVICTIONS

Seven white men in Jaxon Mississippi today were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to ten years. They had been found guilty of conspiracy, in connection with the slaying of three civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Mississippi, three years ago. It was the first time white men were ever convicted of a major civil rights crime in Mississippi. Federal Judge Harold Cox ruled that all seven could remain free on bond, pending appeal.

The Southern Regional council has reported the results of a survey conducted among students at five all-negro high schools in Atlanta. It's the first major study of negro teen-agers in more than a quarter of a century. Among its conclusions -- the new generation of negroes has a deep mistrust of white people -- and it will be more militant in its demands than current Black Power advocates.

WHITEMAN

~~Band~~ orchestra leader Paul Whiteman died today of a heart attack at the Doylestown, Pennsylvania, hospital.


The seventy-seven-year-old musician was rushed to the hospital from his home in nearby New Hope, and died ^{soon} ~~shortly~~ afterwards.

During his long career, Whiteman launched many famous artists with his orchestra -/ among them Bing Crosby, /Dinah Shore, Morton Downey and Mildred Bailey -/ and orchestra leaders Bix Beiderbecke, /Henry Busse, /Jack Teagarden and the late Dorsey Brothers. Whiteman came to jazz with a solid grounding in classical music -/ and he once said -- "You'll never learn to bounce in Jazz, if you don't know Bach and Beethoven."

And he proved his point, /for it was Paul Whiteman who brought jazz out of the back room and into Carnegie Hall.

DRAFT

Democratic Senator Edward Long of Missouri says he'll introduce a bill in Congress next month, calling for a civilian post within the Selective Service System to investigate citizen complaints about unfairness in the military draft. / Long proposes that the new ~~2~~⁹ civilian official be known as an "ombudsman" - / a Swedish ~~term~~⁹ term for an official who takes a citizen's side in an investigation against the government.



ANNE-MARIE

In Rome, Queen Anne Marie of Greece has suffered a miscarriage, and her doctor blames the fatigue and excitement that followed her husband's unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Greek military regime. The Royal couple has two children -- a two-year-old daughter -- and a son, seven months old.

AUTOS

The United Auto Workers Union has ratified its "biggest ever" contract with General Motors -- averting for at least three years bargaining battles between the auto industry's "Big Three" and the Union. Still to be resolved, however, are one-hundred-fifteen local contract disputes. But the threat of an agonizing nation-wide strike was lifted when union official announced that the agreemtn had been ratified -- effective January first. Similar three-year contracts with Ford and Chrysler were fatified in the Fall.

Chrysler has joined General Motors and American Motors in boosting the price of Nineteen-Sixty-Eight auto models by twenty-five dollars. A company spokesman says this will cover the cost of shoulder harnesses which Federal safety regulations require in all cars built after December Thirty-First. Ford says a statement on any price increases for its cars would come next week.

NEPOTISM

If you believe some of the things you hear nowadays, the grand old institution of nepotism in the Federal government is on its way out. No longer, for instance, may a president appoint his brother to the cabinet -- as John F. Kennedy did. And a congressman is no longer privileged to put his wife on the office payroll -- as Adam Clayton Powell did. This is because Congress recently passed a law which forbids Federal official to hire their own relatives for jobs in the legislative, executive or judicial branches of the government. The term "relative" extends to the first-cousin circle and also includes in-laws. Although the law has no enforcement provision to punish violators, newsmen and the political opposition undoubtedly will make sure that transgressors don't go unnoticed. Even so, don't expect nepotism to be anything of the past right away -- the law contains a clause which exempts relatives who are now on the Federal payroll.

Now a pause or two from Warren Moran.

ELIZABETH

An automobile engine is no respecter of persons and ample proof of that was afforded in London today when Queen Elizabeth's black Rolls-Royce stalled and broke down right in the middle of a busy intersection leading into Whitehall. The Queen and her children were in the car, on their way to catch a train to spend the New Year's weekend away from London. With traffic piling up behind, the Queen's red-faced and embarrassed chauffeur got out and pushed the car into a side street, with the help of some policemen. Then they helped the Royal Party out and into another car for the remainder of the trip. ~~Lowell Thomas~~

Lowell Thomas is still up in Alaska tonight. But if he were here, I know he would say -- as I say now -- Best wishes for a very happy 1968 -- and so long until next year.