

MEMPHIS

Mon. Mar. 10th '69.

Memphis, Tennessee -- a sudden and dramatic end today - to the legal ~~manoeuvres~~ ~~machinations~~ of James Earle Ray. By pre-arrangement with the State - the accused killer of ~~Mr~~ Dr. Martin Luther King pleading guilty of a charge of murder. After a token ~~hearing~~ ^{trial} - his sentence set at ninety-nine years in prison.

Judge W. Preston Battle - who handled the case throughout, later scoring the critics of Memphis' legal procedures saying - "we have not done too badly here - for a decadent river town." ^RWhat of the possibility of a conspiracy as yet unsolved? "If there was a conspiracy" said Judge Battle - "no member of such a conspiracy can ever live in peace - or lie down to pleasant dreams." This - said he "because there is no statute of limitations on capital cases."

Getting back to Ray - his next stop - a special isolated ~~xx~~ cell at state prison, Nashville.

The better part of a life time

The prisoner destined to spend [^]~~fifty~~ [^]~~years~~ behind bars -

before he becomes eligible for parole - even theoretically.

And what with today his forty-first birthday - it's not likely.

SPACE

Up there in space - round and round she goes, the Apollo Nine. Happily sailing into the home stretch - of a record-setting performance. Along ~~the~~ the way - completing her seventeenth propulsion maneuver today. In the words of Commander Jim McDivitt - shooting "like an arrow through the sky." Ground control at Houston echoing back: "Beautiful - just beautiful."

~~Be~~ Be that as it may - the Apollo Nine astronauts are keeping one eye on their fuel gauges another on the weather. With threatened^{ing} conditions in the South Atlantic - raising the possibility of splash down a day early. Wednesday - instead of Thursday, ~~as planned in any case~~ ^{Says} Houston ^{to} ~~promises~~ the astronauts: "We won't bring you down in the middle of a storm front." ~~And no objection there.~~ ^{No doubt the trip way up there} will be cheered to hear that.

SAIGON

47 On the war front - Saigon - the U S Command today reported thirty new cases of enemy shellings. At the same time - South Vietnamese President ~~Thieu~~ Thieu warning of imminent retaliation. Saying: "Vietnam and the Allies - cannot forgive the Communists savage action any longer."

Earlier U. S. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - completing a five day tour of the battle zone, Before ~~he~~ headed ^{ing} home ^{said} ~~asserting that~~ the current Red offensive - "has failed to gain any significant military effect." He also admitted that U S troops had recently crossed the Vietnamese border into Laos - when ~~as~~ he put ^{it - it} became "necessary in order to protect American fighting forces." But this should be considered in no way - as escalation of the war - said he.

PARIS

WALTER REED

At the Walter Reed hospital former President

Eisenhower's doctors confirmed today that he continues

to show steady progress - adding that they are well

pleased with his recovery. In light of which - we are

told - there will be no further bulletins on his post-

operative condition.

It's expected to affect nearly every segment of the

French economy - threatening not only the ~~the~~ franc,

but also the British pound - and perhaps even the U S

dollar. The West's central bankers meeting in

Switzerland this past weekend - agreeing the next few

days could be crucial.

PARIS

Paris again - another French gold rush today on the eve of a threatened nationwide general strike. The price of gold - soaring to forty-eight, eighty one an ounce. Making this the fifth consecutive day of record prices - on the Paris bouillon market.

As for that work stoppage set for tomorrow - it's expected to affect nearly every segment of the French economy - threatening not only the ~~fr~~ franc, but also the British pound - and perhaps even the U S dollar. The West's central bankers meeting in Switzerland this past weekend - agreeing the next few days could be crucial.

SUPREME COURT

Another Monday - another big decision day ~~today~~ at the U. S. Supreme Court. Including a number of rulings - intended to clarify the legalities of government eavesdropping - bugging, wire tapping and so on. Although some people have already complained - they're more confused now than they were before.

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In ~~the~~ other cases - the court barred a partial merger of two Tucson, Arizona newspapers; - it reversed a Birmingham Civil Rights conviction - against the Reverend Fred Shuttleworth; and it also reversed a disorderly conduct conviction - against Negro Comedian Dick Gregory. This last in connection with a protest march ~~at~~ around the ~~home~~ home of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The U.S. unemployment rate—same old story.

For the third straight month - holding steady at three point three per cent during February. Again matching the nation's lowest jobless rate - since the Korean Warthis according to figures announced today in Washington.

Reverse side - the nation's total work force - jumped a record three hundred and eighty thousand during February. Fifth straight month - of substantial gain, swelling the nation's industrial payroll to a seasonally adjusted high of nearly seventy billion.

All of which would seem to indicate - the inflationary spiral is still with us.

DHARAMSALA

At Dharamsala, on the India side of the Himalayas, a solemn occasion today, marking the tenth anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight from Tibet.

The exiled God King spoke of "inhuman treatment and atrocities;" committed against the Tibetan people- by Red Chinese occupying forces.

The Dalai Lama going on to say: "As the measure of persecution grows in intensity - so has the determination to resist the aggressor." He adds that there is still great morale- among Tibetans in general, and especially among the young people who continue to resist the teachings of Chairman Mao.

What about his ~~own~~ own future? The Dalai Lama, as he has said before, still hopes to return home to Lhasa, the Potala, some day. In the meantime, he adds that his followers are kept informed of his views oddly enough by Chinese Radio. The D.L. explaining:

"They listen to what is said by the Chinese - and believe just the opposite."

A remarkable young man - the Dalai Lama.
He has a few representatives in this country, including at least one brother, Norbu - known in Tibet as Takser Rimpoche.

The grandson of his great Prime Minister, Tsarong Shape, who entertained the Alaskan Lowell and me in Lhasa - this young man, Jigme Tsarong is ~~to~~ attending Valparaiso University in Indiana where he is well known as a soccer player.

All Tibetans in exile are celebrating today -

John -
1/4 ~~the~~ celebrating the flight of the Dalai Lama across the Himalayas. - ~~his escape to India~~.

LONDON

This next - a ~~new~~ perennial question: If you were cast adrift on a desert island - what would you like to have with you?

And now - the latest answer. From Mrs. Harold Wilson - wife of the British Prime Minister - during an ~~interview~~ interview on the B.B.C. Mrs. Wilson pondering a moment - whereupon she specified her needs as a copy of "Wuthering Heights" - and a full make-up kit.

The book, of course - to while away the time. But why the make-up kit -- on a deserted island? Mrs. Wilson explaining: "In case a ship came along - I would not want to look too disheveled."