

Monday, July 9, 1973

KANSAS CITY

Good evening. President Nixon - who has been vacationing at San Clemente made a stop today at Kansas City en route to Washington. The President helped to swear in former Kansas City Police Chief Clarence Kelley - as new head of the FBI. In so doing - Mr. Nixon made his first public appearance in nearly a month.

The President praised Kelley - as "a man of enormous personal strength and character." He added: "The FBI deserves the best law enforcement officer in the world as its director - and Chief Kelley is that man."

The President noted that for the first time in twelve years, no Americans are being killed in Vietnam - for the first time in eight years, no Americans are being held prisoner - for the first time in over twenty years, no young Americans are being drafted. He also recalled that "just five years ago, many of the cities of this country were in

*flames - crime had doubled and was continuing to escalate,
he said - and the use of drugs" was continuing to escalate.*

*"Let us not forget" - the President continued - "as
we enter into this new era of working toward peace abroad -
the progress we have made in moving toward peace at home."*

WATERGATE

After a week's hiatus for the fourth of July holiday - the Senate Watergate Committee was operating again today. Senate investigators meeting privately for four hours with former Attorney General John Mitchell - who takes the stand when the hearings resume tomorrow.

Mitchell refused to discuss publicly his forthcoming testimony. "My testimony is tomorrow - he said - not today".

KAMPALA

More than a hundred U. S. Peace-Corpsmen are now in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo - after being detained since Saturday at Kampala in Uganda. Their release was finally approved by Uganda President Idi Amin - following the intervention of President Mobutu of Zaire. Mobutu assured Amin that the Americans in question - were really Peace Corps workers and not U.S. mercenaries.

The U.S. State Department - demands a full explanation from Kampala. A spokesman said: "We are glad the volunteers - as a result of efforts over the weekend - have been released; but we remain deeply concerned - that they were detained." And he added: "We will be considering the implications - this situation has for us."

WHEAT

From the U. S. General Accounting Office - a report today dealing with last year's massive sale of U. S. wheat to the Soviet Union. The GAO - criticized the way the deal was handled. It charged that the government probably paid Three Hundred Million in unnecessary subsidies - thus enabling large companies to make excessive profits. It adds subsequent wheat shortages were a major factor - in soaring food prices here at home.

GAS

The Nixon Administration again denied today - in its strongest language yet - any plans for gasoline rationing.

Deputy Treasury Secretary William Simon said: "Absolutely not." He said: "I do not consider rationing - even possible."

He also said: "We have a voluntary allocation system in place now - that I believe is doing the job."

JACKSON FOLLOW GAS

More on gasoline - from Senator Jackson of Washington chairman of the Senate Interior Committee. This, in a discussion of a two-year study of the oil industry - prepared by the Federal Trade Commission.

Jackson says the study concludes that "it is essential - that the nation must develop a program to ensure fair competition." It thereby provides "a strong case" - said Jackson "for divorcement of oil transportation from production and refining." Jackson says that "Congress must take a new and very hard look - at this question."

Jackson also threatened to introduce legislation - calling for government construction of a Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline; to do so if plans for a Three-and-a-Half Billion-Dollar private project - are held up beyond next Spring. "I do not intend" ^{he} said - "to allow a filibuster by the courts or the adoption of amendments involving regional interests or collateral issues - to bottle up high-quality domestic oil which the nation will critically need as soon as it can be delivered."

PRAGUE

U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers - was a visitor today in Prague. There, he signed a new consular agreement, between the U.S. and Czechoslovakia. Rogers called the new pact "an essential building-block - in the new relationship we are constructing" between our two countries."

Rogers also met today with Czech Premier Lubomir Strougal - and Gustav Husak, General Secretary of the Czech Communist Party. He thus became the highest-ranking American official - ever to meet with Czech Communist leaders.

ATLANTA

For the Reverend Ralph Abernathy - an important decision today. The successor to the late Martin Luther King - announced his resignation as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This, in an emotion-filled news conference - held at his headquarters in Atlanta.

"I am resigning - because of lack of financial support" - said Abernathy. Adding that blacks have "arrived" and now "occupy high positions made possible through the struggles of others - but will not support the SCLC financially." Abernathy then walked to Dr. King's grave - to pray saying, ^{as} he left the reporters: "I want to talk to Martin now."

BAGHDAD

In the Middle East - Radio Baghdad announced today the conviction and immediate execution - of thirteen more Iraqi government officials. These included Colonel Nazam Al-Kazzar - formerly Iraq's Director of Public Safety; also, the confessed mastermind - of that abortive coup of June Thirtieth. The latest executions making a total of thirty-six - in just two days.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "MORRO CASTLE"

And now - a special report from Lowell Thomas.

His subject tonight - tragedy at sea. Lowell...

EXCERPT FROM LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST

July 9, 1973

September Eighth, Nineteen-Thirty-Four - the date of one of the worst disasters in U.S. maritime history. The Morro Castle cruise ship - off the coast of New Jersey, bound from Havana to New York, suddenly caught fire.

Of a total of more than five hundred passengers and crew - one hundredth thirty-five were killed. My father - practising in New Jersey at the time - was one of the doctors first at the scene.

Now the full story of that disaster - in a new book, "The Morro Castle - Tragedy at Sea" by Hal Burton. Here in detail is a devastating account of raging fire aboard a crowded luxury liner; complete with heroes and villains - narrow escapes and flaming death - a hundred-and-one human dramas; all played against a backdrop - of wild confusion.

If you liked the "Poseidon Adventure" - be sure to read "The Morro Castle - Tragedy at Sea" by Hal Burton. It's the real thing.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "MORRO CASTLE"

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

PARIS

The government of France issued today - its customary final warning before the start of nuclear testing. It ordered all unauthorized aircraft - to steer clear of its test zone in the South Pacific. This followed an earlier ban - on shipping. This might indicate that the French tests will probably begin - within forty-eight hours.

NASSAU

*At one minute past midnight tonight - the Bahama
Islands become an independent state.*

Stuart Novins, CBS News, for Lowell Thomas.