

Tues, Mar. 11th '69 ✓

Even as here on earth - the black void of space was filled with talk about the ~~unk~~ weather today. As usual nobody seemed to be doing much about it.

U S space officials scanning their weather charts - noting high winds and choppy seas in the South Atlantic. Later discarding a faulty report on more of the same still to come - finally deciding to ~~leave~~ leave well enough alone. All of which means the original Apollo Nine flight plan - is still in effect; calling for splash-down Thursday - same time, same place. This based on the assumption that better weather - will have set in by then.

1/2 Weather or not - the three Apollo Nine astronauts seemed ~~perhaps~~ least concerned by the elements. At one point, Houston telling Commander Jim McDivitt - that one of his picture taking targets

today might be - "marginal" because of clouds.

McDivitt replying "the marginal we handle routinely

- the impossible we attempt."

PARIS

Getting back to earth - nearly ten million Frenchmen left their jobs today. Many ~~of them~~ chanting - "down with DeGaulle". As promised, the nationwide general strike - slowing French life to a crawl. Again ~~the~~ threatening the national economy - and with it, the value of the French franc.

DeGaulle's response - a nationwide television broadcast. Blaming today's work stoppage - on the same divisive elements that ~~nearly~~ crippled the country last June. But they will fail again - said he - asserting that the French must now choose - "between progress and order". Adding that he had ^S no doubt - which it will be, ~~would be.~~

SUEZ JERUSALEM

In the tense Middle East - another major
artillery duel, ~~today~~ Third - in the last four days.
Israeli and Egyptian guns blazing across the Suez
Canal ~~off~~ and on for eight and a half hours. The
battle finally ending at dusk - under the terms of
~~the~~ a U. N. cease fire.

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Meanwhile, at Jerusalem - Mrs. Golda
Meir was officially designated Israel's new Premier.
Taking up her task - in her words -- with a toast
to "peace with our Arab neighbors."

SAIGON

War news from Vietnam tells ~~today~~ of ~~an~~
forty new shelling attacks - over the past twenty ^{four} -four
hours. At the same time - enemy ~~troops~~ troops were
pounding U S positions around Saigon. American
intelligence sources calling this - the third phase
of the current Red offensive; apparently building ^{(toward} ~~for~~
a direct attack - on the capital itself.

Indeed, captured Communist documents ~~were~~
detailing plans for just such an attack - during "the
dark phase of the moon", which is taken to mean,
this coming weekend.

WHITE HOUSE

To be or not to be - that's still the question with regard to a U.S. anti-ballistic--missile system. President Nixon failing to announce a decision today - as many had thought he would. The White House saying - he will make an announcement "some time this week", but not before he confers with Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - who is still enroute home from Vietnam.

In the meantime - the President met today with G O P Congressional leaders; discussing, among other things, ~~the~~ possible ramifications of his A. B. M. decision - one way or the other. House Minority Leader Gerald Ford later saying: "If the President decides he does want an A. B. M. System - Congress will fully support him."

LONDON

That computer revolution we've been hearing about - ~~well~~ ~~it~~ maybe it's ~~already~~ here. For example, Britain's minister for Education and Science - Edward Short - attempting to demonstrate today a wondrous new computer, ~~One~~ - supposedly capable of carrying on a conversation - with results as follows:

Minister Short tapping out - hello on the computer key board - except that he accidentally punched in an extra "h". "I am not sure I understand you" - answered the machine.

When they finally got that straightened out - Minister Short then inquired: "What time is it?" Said the machine - "Why do you ask?" Said the Minister. "Because I am hungry." Said the machine: "Is that the real reason? Why do you avoid giving me the correct answer? Does it amuse you to give me meaningless lines? Of course, it does". At which point Minister Short had a short circuit - fireworks and all

TINY BRODWICK

At some time or other I'm sure you have all heard of an organization called The Early Birds. Made up of those who were involved in aviation way back in the period immediately following the Wright brothers, the first flight at Kitty Hawk. I've just been talking with Harry Bruno who I believe was one of the founders of The Early Birds. He tells me there is a lady living in Henderson, North Carolina who they say was the first person ever to jump, with a parachute from an airplane, do it as a stunt. General Harold Harris, a young test pilot at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, was the first ever to bail out to save his life - when his plane went to pieces. Since then he has been known as the founder of The Caterpillar Club.

To get back to the gal who made the first jump, ~~her~~ her name Tiny Brodwick. That was her jumping name. She was born Georgia Brown. She made over

one thousand jumps from hot air balloons. When she made her first jump from an airplane her pilot was none other than the now legendary Glen Martin, famous designer and builder of planes. But what a record, a thousand jumps from hot air balloons!

Now John Shafer to send up a balloon - but not filled with hot air.....

EASTER

The White House again - a real scene stealer paid a call today. Seven year old Donna Kay Howell of Tallahassee, Florida this year's Easter Seal child, Making funny faces in competition with TV comedienne Carol Burnette, National Easter Seal Chairman. *Also* Parading up and down in a mink stole which she snatched from one of the other ladies present. *and* Sticking her tongue out - at White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler.

However, her best line she saved for the President. When Mr. Nixon entered the room - little Donna Kay blurting out: "Who's he?"