

FRI. MARCH 14, 1969
(Dallas Townsend)

WHITE HOUSE

Good evening everybody.

It was news conference day at the White House - and an important one for Richard Nixon. First and foremost, of course - the President's decision on anti-ballistic missiles. A Solomon-like verdict - providing for limited deployment of an A.B.M. system. This new "Safeguard" system - as the President called it - "a defensive system only" - Designed solely to safeguard our own nuclear deterrent force ~~against~~ against the threat of attack from Russia, from China, or even by accident.

The President going on to say - this would "in no way delay progress toward arms talks." Adding it is, in fact - "the best step we can take to provide for our future security;" to prevent another arms race - "to prevent war."

Next question - Vietnam; and what about his promise of "appropriate response" - if the Communists continue their current offensive. Said the President - slowly, carefully:

"At my last news conference - I issued what was widely interpreted as a warning. It will be my policy as President - he continued - "to issue a warning only once. And anything in the future that is done - will be done; there will be no additional warning." Significantly, he later added there is "no prospect for reduction of U.S. forces in Vietnam - in the foreseeable future."

As for the pursuit of peace at Paris - the President refused to comment on secret talks, if any. Saying: "I trust there will be private talks - I think that's where the war will be settled - in private. But public discussion of significant progress along the lines of private talks - I will not indulge in" - said he.

Turning to the domestic front - the subject of campus violence - next up. The President noting that a hundred and twenty-two students recently arrested at San Francisco State College - were recipients of Federal aide. "I prefer

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not to go into it now" - said he. Adding, however: "I will have a statement to make on that - Monday or Tuesday."

A final note: Richard Nixon publicly inviting former President Johnson - to take part in ratification ceremonies for that new treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Nixon saying: "He" - meaning Lyndon Johnson - "started it in his Administration - and I think he should participate when we ratify it."

A flight like this - "takes a lot more than luck." After that - on to Houston - and a warm reunion of families and friends.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - a hero's welcome today for the three Apollo-Nine astronauts. Touching down on U.S. soil - for the first time since blast-off a week ago Monday. The spacecraft commander - Jim McDivitt telling some five hundred space workers: "I guess it's only been a few short days - but it seems like a lifetime to us." Dave Scott observing: "We couldn't have done it without you." Rusty Schweikart adding: A flight like this - "takes a lot more than luck." After that - on to Houston - and a warm reunion of families and friends.

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - tension mounts. Israeli air strike today - against three Arab guerilla bases in Jordan. Coupled with an unconfirmed report that many Israeli tanks - may be moving up to the Suez Canal.

Reverse side - Iraqi troops reported arriving in Syria. Their mission - said to be the forging of a new eastern front - against Israel.

PARIS THE LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

Paris - the wind-up of a two-day meeting - between French President DeGaulle and West German Chancellor Kiesinger. The two men agreeing to a joint study - on the possibility of building a broader Western European community - including, perhaps - sometime - Britain. In the interim, though - both pledging to strengthen the existing Common Market.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

Lowell Thomas is up near the Arctic Circle tonight - in northernmost Norway; from whence we expect to hear from him - the first of next week. In the meantime - another special report. Subject: Gold. Lowell....

Discovered which makes it much easier now to find gold. It's called Californium. He says it gives off neutrons - you know what neutrons are don't you? I'm afraid I'd have difficulty explaining.

The Atomic Energy Commission has come up with this idea. You just walk around with this new instrument, and suddenly, you find gold, or, it will help you discover tin, sodium, iron, copper, fluorine, strontium, cesium and uranium.

Of course they don't tell us where to go to locate all this or how to get the gold out when you spot it.

How much of this rare chemical Californium is needed? Oh, just a speck, smaller than the period you make with the

GOLD

Would you like to find a pot of gold, maybe in your own back yard? Many people would gladly go to the end of the rainbow to find one. Dr. Grosvenor of the National Geographic tells me a new chemical element has been discovered which makes it much easier now to find gold. It's called Californium. He says it gives off neutrons - you know what neutrons are don't you? I'm afraid I'd have difficulty explaining.

The Atomic Energy Commission has come up with this idea. You just walk around with this new instrument, and suddenly, you find gold, or, it will help you discover tin, sodium, iron, copper, fluorine, aluminum, vanadium and uranium.

Of course they don't tell us where to go to locate all this or how to get the gold out when you spot it.

How much of this rare chemical Californium is needed?

Oh, just a speck, smaller than the period you make with the

typewriter at the end of the sentence. Among the people involved in the discover of this are some of the world's most distinguished physicists. Nobel Prize Winner Edwin McMillan of the University of California for one. And Glenn Seaborg; they made it by bombarding an element called curium, with ions of helium, and what they woundup with, they named for their state - Californium. So, as the saying goes: Californium here we come.

So long .

KARACHI

Today in troubled Pakistan the emergence of fabled Air Marshal Asghar Khan - as a major stabilizing force. The Marshall announcing at Karachi - formation of a new Justice Party. And its expressed purpose - its only purpose - said he: To prevent political exploitation of the present crisis - from either the right or the left.

A legendary war hero - Asghar already has the support of the Pakistani military. He is also highly popular with the peasants for his efforts to nationalize the holdings of Pakistan's wealthiest families. As for his devotion to country - no question about that. During the brief Indo-Pakistani war of Nineteen-Sixty-Five - Asghar refusing to deal with the enemy even to save his own father - who was then held captive in India.

JAKARTA

Former President Sukarno of Indonesia - who was once
acclaimed the "father of his country" - cast in the role
of "father of the bride" today in Jakarta. Making his
first public appearance in nearly a year - to attend the
wedding of his eighteen-year-old daughter.

This in a Moslem ceremony - at the home of her mother -
the first of Sukarno's four wives. Proving still another
comedown - for the deposed President. Even as here in the
West - the "father" of "father of the bride" all but ignored
- we are told. Ignored by everybody - that is - except
his security guard.

Good Night.

BIRMINGHAM

With the advent of spring just a week away - this next is perhaps appropriate to the season: A collection of youthful answers to the question - "What is Teen-Age Love?" - as drawn from a group of ninth-graders at Birmingham, Michigan.

Said one: "Teenage love is the type of love - that begins with a crush and ends with a ridiculous argument - that should never happen at all." Said another - a boy, obviously: "Teen-age love is mostly just a bunch of fake stuff - to stay 'in' with the other guys."

Perhaps best of all though - this answer: "Teen-age love is very short and sweet - well, sometimes not so sweet - well, sometimes not so short either." Which seems to cover the subject fairly well for everybody - grownups as well as teenagers.

Good Night.