

It's not easy for me to broadcast this evening. I am in a state of shock. It was only a few minutes ago that I came into the studio and heard the news from Miami Beach of the death of my neighbor and friend for more than thirty years, one of the great men of our time. Former Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York - and who almost became President - the victim of a sudden fatal illness. Not only was he one of the foremost Americans of our time, he also was a delightful companion, a brilliant conversationalist, a warm friend on whom you could always depend when the going was tough, but he ^{had} about the keenest mind of any man I ever knew.

Young Tom Dewey as you know, first came to public attention - as a tough racket-busting District Attorney during the Thirties. Later serving three terms - as Governor of New York; and generally regarded as one of New York's greatest governors. Along the way, he also won the Republican nomination for President - twice, first

against Franklin D. Roosevelt, and then in the later race with Harry S. Truman - the second he lost by a narrow margin. However he did build up the cause of "modern republicanism" which ~~which~~ was to come to power - in the person of his friend the late President Eisenhower. More recently - he had played the role of an elder statesman. Even so his friends all thought of him as a young man .

He and his wife Frances had been extremely close, and she died only eight months ago. Some months before his two closest friends Marge and "Pat" Carl T. Hogan had died quite suddenly. His mother had lived into her nineties and we all thought he might equal her age.

As a neighbor, a golf companion, and at times as an advisor, I had known him as a neighbor and friend for more than Thirty years. ~~And~~ My life and work has brought me in contact with many of the great and near great of ~~my~~ our time in ^{this} ~~the~~ and other lands. And I regarded him as one of the most impressive men I ever knew. To know Governor Dewey

intimately was both to admire him and regard him with affection. Great lawyer, great statesman, staunch friend.

He once said: "I will do anything I can do to make the courage of eternal youth run once more in the veins of my party and my country."

He was only sixty-eight.

PRESIDENT NIXON

President Nixon issued a statement this evening saying all America is poorer because of the death of Governor Dewey. He was a fine human being - a close personal friend and provided me with wise counsel. In fact he was supposed to attend the dinner tonight at the White House. The occasion the President said will be ~~deminished~~ ^{deminished} by his death. They were close friends.

CONGRESS

A new ten percent increase in social security ~~benefit~~ benefits signed and sealed today; after which - it was delivered to the White House. This the first major bill - to emerge from the new ~~legislative~~ congress - a measure ~~that~~ ~~that~~ approved only yesterday - by a joint house-Senate conference committee - but both bodies ~~having~~ waiving any further delay in order to speed the bill into law. The new increase in benefits - is also retroactive to January one. Congress providing, however, that the ~~new~~ money to pay for it - will come out of payroll deductions ~~is~~ starting ~~at~~ not till next year.

ROGERS

Elsewhere in Washington - another ~~in~~ U S peace offensive aimed at cracking the present Arab Israeli impasse. Secretary of State William Rogers - urging Israel to return to its pre Nineteen Sixty Seven boundaries with Egypt - told so - said he - safe in the knowledge that Israeli security - is not dependant solely ~~upon~~ on "the acquisition of territory."

At the same time - Rogers stressing America's continued support of Israel ~~and~~ ; and he also pledged - long term U S military and economic aid.

The war news from Laos - marked today by a growing retreat on the part of South Vietnamese forces; who are said to be withdrawing by U S helicopter, where possible - or ~~with~~ hacking their way ~~thru-out~~ through the jungle on foot. In all, an estimated two thousand Saigon troops giving up their newly won positions astride the enemy's Ho Chi ~~Minh~~ supply trail. This - we are told - in the face of a massive enemy advance. ^{with} ~~Although~~ the U S ~~is now~~ said to be rushing artillery reinforcements into nearby border areas - trying to help out.

LAIRD

Here ~~was~~ at home though Defense Secretary ~~Laird~~

Laird ^{is} ~~was already~~ calling the Laos offensive - an outstanding success-- retreat or no. Laird noting that this was "a hit operation" - intended to disrupt the Communist supply lines and force them to concentrate their forces; which mission - has now been accomplished. And he added that it was never intended - for South Vietnamese troops to occupy territory in Laos.

FORT BENNING

In the ~~XXXXXX~~ court martial of ~~Lt~~ Lieutenant William Calley at Fort Benning Georgia the case for the defense today. Attorney George Latimer asserting in closing arguments - that Calley was a man who performed his duty as best he could; a man who now finds himself persecuted - "by a nation he tried to ~~defend~~ defend."

Latimer then going on to say - "the prosecution of this case" may have been thought "necessary" to protect the image of the army; ^{but} ~~then~~ he added: "The conviction of one Lieutenant for the ills and vices that occurred at My Lai - will sear that image beyond recognition."

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a ~~at~~ fitting welcome today for visiting Irish Premier Jack Lynch; with a chorus of little school girls singing - "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." And President Nixon observed that "tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day when everyone in America will be ~~me~~ just a little Irish."

In response - Jack Lynch payin^g tribute - to U S foreign policy expressing ~~about~~ confidence that not now or ever - will the U S renege on the trust that small ~~nations~~ nation's have placed in it, that of upholding the principles of freedom."

CHARLOTTE

Earlier in a speech at Charlotte, North Carolina -
the ~~Pr~~^{me} Minister noted that the protestant government of
northern Ireland - has already instituted a number of
legislative reforms and he said that these will help to
pave the way for eventual reunification of old Ireland.
But he added, a bit sadly: "it's hard for the Catholic
minority - to see ~~the~~^{is} happening."

BELFAST

Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland - the ladies of Belfast were pouring forth today. More than ten thousand women - Protestants and Roman Catholics alike paying tribute to ^{the} ~~these~~ three British soldiers who were shot to death last week. Laying wreath after wreath of white carnations on the ground of Belfast's city hall. ~~Observers noting that "some men and children were to be seen as well - but this was the women's moment to grieve."~~

CHICAGO

Here's one - a case of bank ~~embezzlement~~ - perhaps the biggest ever; with the cosmopolitan National Bank of Chicago claiming an estimated loss of six or seven million ~~and~~ dollars. This we are told by means of a scheme whereby a customer cashed checks ranging ~~up~~ up to nine hundred thousand ~~in~~ bucks. These checks approved by an accomplice - who is said to have been a veteran member of Cosmopolitan's bookkeeping department. ^{Warren is} and that ~~is~~ really ~~is~~ having a ~~in~~ friend at the bank.

LONDON

For one of America's greatest stars in the early days of film the final curtain today in London. The still lovely

Bebe Daniels - victim of sudden cerebral ~~hemorrhage~~ ^{hemorrhage} /

Her name - perhaps ^(not well) unknown to modern youth. But Bebe

Daniels appeared in more than three hundred ~~film~~ films ~~in~~

spanning the transition from silent movies to talkies.

Her biggest hits including: "Rio Rita" - "Monsieur Beaucaire" -

"Forty Second Street." Her leading men including: Rudolf

Valentino, Harold Lloyd, John Boles, William Powell. Also

Ben Lyons - with whom she celebrated last week - her fortieth wedding anniversary. Bebe ~~is~~ Daniels - age seventy.