

L.T.-OLDS. THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1960

(Given by W.Cronkite, L.T. in Hawaii)

GOOD EVENING:

An airliner accident in Indiana this evening -- with a heavy loss of life indicated.

The plane was believed to be Northwest Airlines Flight 710 -- out of Minneapolis, last stop Chicago -- en route to Miami. It was a new Lockheed turbo-prop Electra. They can carry up to seventy-six passengers and a crew of five. How many passengers were aboard this plane is still not known -- but apparently all are dead.

Exactly what happened is still a mystery too. Farmers on the ground around Tell City, Indiana - that's sixty miles from Louisville, Kentucky, and Evansville, Indiana -- the farmers say they heard a great explosion in the sky. Some say it was two big booms -- others say three. At any rate, they then saw the plane's fuselage plummeting to earth -- the wings already stripped from it.

It hit and buried itself in its own crater. There was no fire, but the victims were scattered over five acres.

There were some reports that another plane was involved -- that this was a mid-air collision. The other plane, it has been said, may have been a huge Air Force tanker, the military version of the 707 jet. But there is no confirmation of that as yet.

INTEGRATION

The integration movement in the South - took a turn for the worse today. The first outbreak of - real violence.

Savannah, Georgia, had to call in state troopers - to prevent what could have been - a major riot. White and Negro crowds - insulting one another. Throwing rocks. Erupting into - fist fights. The troopers, using tear gas - to restore order.

St. Augustine, Florida, needed extra policemen - to deal with a "sit-down" at a five-and-ten lunch counter. Eight Negroes - asked to be served. The lunch counter - closing down instead. A group of white men - starting a fight as the Negroes were leaving. A big crowd - collecting. The police, hustling up to disperse them.

CUBA

Cuba's delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington - has resigned. Commander Miguel Pons, protesting against - Castro's policies. That virulent anti-American line - in Havana. And the rise of Communists to power.

This resignation is significant - because Commander Pons is one of Castro's old supporters. He stood by Castro's economic reforms. And went as far as he could - with Castro's handling of foreign affairs. Commander Pons, only disillusioned now - by Castro's vituperative charges against the United States. Today Commander Pons called Castro - "a traitor" and "the new dictator of Cuba."

These remarks, pointed up by - the resignation in Havana - of the last moderate in the revolutionary government. Rufo Lopez Fresquet - who used to be Castro's Finance Minister.

SUGAR

President Eisenhower is running into opposition - on Capitol Hill. Subject - the sugar quota. Mr. Eisenhower has asked for power - to alter the amount of sugar we get from various nations. Denying the request - is aimed at Cuba. Merely insisting - America needs sugar. And the President should see that we get it.

Some members of Congress, retorting - the change would obviously be aimed at Cuba. An undiplomatic move, just now. Besides, they think the present law is good enough - to ensure the sugar needed for the ~~Amex~~ American market.

IMMIGRATION

The Immigration law that President Eisenhower suggested to Congress today - would double the number of immigrants. The President declares that his proposal would be - "humanitarian - and in our national interest." Mr. Eisenhower, referring to thousands of refugees - who have no place else to go.

The Democrats, needless to say - have their own interpretation. They call the presidential request - "election year politics."

DISARMAMENT

At the Geneva Disarmament Conference - the West is asking that "the ultimate weapon" be outlawed. "The ultimate weapon" - is an artificial satellite - carrying atomic bombs. It could be triggered to hit a target - anywhere on earth. And the experts say - no practical defense has yet been devised. Hence the desire of the Western delegates in Geneva - to outlaw the atomic satellite. "The ultimate weapon."

ATOMIC

The French will explode their second atomic bomb -
to coincide with Nikita Khrushchev's visit next week.

Apparently - just a coincidence. France's atomic time table

had been set - before the Soviet ^{Premier's arrival} ~~Premier~~ arrived in Paris -

was postponed ^{until Wednesday.} But it's a dramatic coincidence all the same.

The mushroom cloud, rising into the sky over the Sahara -

handing DeGaulle another diplomatic card to play - when he sits

down with Khrushchev at the conference table.

SWASTIKAS

Tonight the officials of Washington's National Gallery of Art - are asking, "Who scribbled those swastikas - in the gallery's guest book?" The symbols of ~~Nazism~~ Nazism - are directly over Chancellor Adenauer's signature. They weren't there - when the West German Chancellor signed the guest book. The only persons who were seen near the book afterward - members of the Adenauer party, who can hardly be accused of wanting to - insult and embarrass their chief. A mystery at the National Gallery - and it has nothing to do with art. The mystery of two Nazi swastikas - in the guest book.

FLOOD

Tonight Tampa, Florida, is trying to stave off a flood - after the collapse of a dam at Lake Magdalene. The dam, giving way - under the pressure of torrential rain. Tons of water - surging down towards Tampa. Threatening to inundate - much of the city. The National Guard - and all the able bodied men available - are working frantically to control the flood. They're throwing up a barricade of sandbags - along its course.

Meanwhile, ~~much of~~ central Florida is being battered by - rain and tornadoes. Dozens of homes in low-lying areas - have been evacuated. The Red Cross - taking care of the refugees. Fighting a special hazard - contaminated water. Everyone in the area - is advised to boil water, before drinking it.

North of Florida - snow, sleet, slush, and ice. Winter weather - from Georgia to New England and the Great Lakes. Eighteen inches of snow in Iowa - and Spring is only three days away. Or - so they say. You can't prove it - by the weather-man.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Well, ~~today~~ today was the day for - the wearing of the green. And the Irish ~~were~~ were out in force - including those Irishmen-for-a-day, whose ancestors came from - Naples, Hamburg, Warsaw, Aberdeen, and various other places outside the Emerald Isle.

Not even the weather could stop the St. Patrick's Day parade, in New York City. A hundred and twenty thousand on the march - tramping up Fifth Avenue, through slush and rain. Three hundred and fifty organizations in the parade. A hundred - bands. Sixty - marching battalions. The outfit bringing up the rear - the "total abstinence society." And they made it - without being fortified by a single snifter - of good Irish whiskey.

For our humorous note - let's go to London, where Kevin McCarthy was accused of being - drunk and disorderly. The defendant telling the judge - "I got mad because someone said - St. Patrick was a Scotsman." The judge, - agreeing -

ST. PATRICK'S DAY -

that kind of remark is libelous, on St. Patrick's Day.

Kevin McCarthy found innocent - hurrying back to the tavern -
before the Irish whiskey gave out.

SURE, & NOW A WARD FROM DICK O'NOEL.

PLANE CRASH

Here is a further report on the plane crash in Indiana. There were apparently 61 persons aboard - 17 starting the flight in Minneapolis, 39 joining in Chicago - and a crew of five on that flight to Miami. The Elektra jet-propplane, a Northwest Airliner, flight 710, may have crashed with an air force tanker plane. Casualty reports are not yet available.

NADLER

I guess you've all heard about what happened to - Teddy Nadler. Remember Teddy Nadler of St. Louis - on the quiz show? The man who knew - practically everything? and won a quarter of a million dollars on the quiz programs. Somehow, most of it - disappeared. So he decided to try for a job - as a census taker. And for the first time - Teddy Nadler - flunked. He couldn't answer the questions about - maps. Got mixed up between - east and west in St. Louis. Teddy Nadler, who beat the quiz contestants - but couldn't beat Uncle Sam.

So long until tomorrow.