

November 3, 1971
Allen Jackson

BLAST

The mightiest underground nuclear blast in U.S. history - now set for five o'clock, Eastern-time, Saturday afternoon. So announced today - by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Site, of course - the Island of Amchitka up in Alaska.

Conservationists - opposing the test all the way - went before the U.S. Court of Appeals - seeking an injunction to halt it. But - this court - turned ^{them} down again today - even though the conservationists charged that the Atomic Energy Commission had deliberately omitted adverse views from its public estimate of the environmental impact the big blast will have.

It was revealed - for example - that President Nixon's top environmental adviser - Russell Train - had stated - that the blast on Amchitka Island could set off a chain of earthquakes - like a line of falling dominoes - and perhaps send a

tidal wave across the Pacific ocean.

*Now - the opponents of the blast - are left to
consider - whether to take their appeal to the Supreme Court.*

Time is short.

SENATE

President Nixon's two new appointees to the U.S. Supreme Court - both endorsed today by a twelve-man committee of the American Bar Association. Virginia's Lewis Powell Junior - received rating of "highest qualified" from all twelve. The Justice Department's William Rehnquist - getting a similar rating from nine of the twelve.

This was announced - at the start of confirmation hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Chairman Eastland adding that a full investigation by the FBI - has shown both Rehnquist and Powell to be "clean, high-class gentlemen." So far - so good.

SAIGON

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - an arrival today at Saigon; where he promptly expressed confidence - that the U.S. Congress will soon enact a new foreign aid bill. Laird saying: "As we meet with the Soviet Union and as we meet with the People's Republic of China - this is the time to show strength, not weakness." A message clearly intended to reassure the Saigon government - one of the chief beneficiaries of U.S. foreign aid.

But the main purpose of Laird's visit - we are told - is to determine the speed and extent of future troop withdrawals. In this connection, Laird discussed the U S. casualty report for the past week - to be announced tomorrow; saying it will show "the lowest casualty figure" - since Nineteen-Sixty-Five when the U.S. first "assumed a combat role in Vietnam."

BELFAST

By order of Premier Brian Faulkner, police regulars and police reservists in Northern Ireland - will be permitted, henceforth, to carry guns on regular duty. The Premier finally giving his okay today - in the face of a threatened police mutiny. This following the machinegun slaying - of two Belfast detectives; the latest of more than three hundred attacks on traditionally unarmed police - since the current violence in Ulster began in Nineteen-Sixty-Nine.

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ITALY #2)

*And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;
discussing tonight - the Isle of Malta. Lowell...*

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ITALY #2"

Thank you, Lowell.

More after this.

There are many ways of riding an elephant. And so it was that the two Senators from Maryland - Mathias and Bell - turned up with two circus elephants they had borrowed - and offered them to the two Senators from Pennsylvania - Scott and Schweiker - all the result of a friendly wager on whether the Baltimore Orioles or the Pittsburgh Pirates would win the World Series.

And so it was up to Senators Scott and Schweiker - to go elephant riding - from a spot in front of the Senate steps - to the area behind the Dome at the center of the building. Senator Schweiker - appeared a little nervous - but determined - Senator Scott - who has ridden elephants before - told him - "All calm and steady - and don't say anything to make the elephants mad."

And now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow

ELEPHANTS

How do you pay off a baseball bet? There are many ways of course - and one is to ride an elephant. And so it was that the two Senators from Maryland - Mathias and Bell - turned up with two circus elephants they had borrowed - and offered them to the two Senators from Pennsylvania - Scott and Schweiker - all the result of a friendly wager on whether the Baltimore Orioles or the Pittsburgh Pirates would win the World Series.

And so it was up to Senators Scott and Schweiker - to go elephant riding - from a spot in front of the Senate steps - to the area behind the Dome at the center of the building. Senator Sweicker - appeared a little nervous - but determined - Senator Scott - who has ridden elephants before - told him - "sit calm and steady - and don't say anything to make the elephants mad."

And now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.