

Chicago Oct. 24, 1968

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - LBJ tends to puncture a peace balloon. The President asserting today there has been "no basic change - no breakthrough" - in peace talks aimed at ending the war in Vietnam. At the same time - warning against any "false sense of security" - because of fewer war casualties and also because of any recent prisoner exchanges.

Under persistent questioning from reporters - the President later adding: "We do not want to make news - until there is news." Admitting only that "many times - dipolmacy can be more effective in private."

Turning briefly to politics - the President declaring his belief that the upcoming Presidential election - will not end in the House of Representatives. Why so? Because Hubert Humphrey "will eliminate that possibility in the days ahead" - said he.

NEW BEDFORD

In the East again - Senator Edward Kennedy was also getting into the act. At New Bedford, Massachusetts - his toughest speech to date. Senator Kennedy invoking the memory of his two slain brothers - in an appeal to the American public not - repeat - not to vote for George Wallace for President.

Reason - said he - because Wallace "is in league" with extremists; with the possibility of a heavy Wallace vote - raising the threat of "a permanent party of division and hate" on the American political scene.

CAMPAIGN

On the campaign trail - Richard Nixon criss-crossed Pennsylvania today. The Nixon motorcade - finally ending up at Allentown. Where the Republican contender charged that the Johnson and Kennedy administrations - have led the US into a "gravely serious security gap."

Speaking of gaps - George Wallace was using the same word today; in a speech at Durham, North Carolina- blasting Richard Nixon. The GOP nominee guilty of creating a "credibility gap" - by his refusal to engage in presidential debate - said Wallace.

Out on the west coast - today Hubert Humphrey had some good luck. Picking up an estimated 300,000 for his California campaign - at a businessmen's fund raising breakfast in Los Angeles. Later, Humphrey portraying himself as a peace candidate - calling for speedy approval of that nuclear test band treaty.

TEL AVIV

In the tense middle east - Syrian and Israeli troupes exchanged gun fire today - across their mutual "cease fire" line. This following an earlier clash - between Israeli and Jordanian troupes; also, an air battle between Egyptian and Israeli jets. All - within the past 24 hours.

Result - we are told - a tensing of trigger fingers on the firing line - plus a growing nervousness in mid-east capitals. An early morning fire that closed Tel Aviv Lydda airport - although accidental - only adding to the uneasiness.

JALPAIGURI

For Indian Prime Minister Madame Indira Gandhi - a close call today at Jalpaiguri in North Bengal. Madame Gandhi inspecting recent flood damage in the area - later talking to local officials in Jalpaiguri district headquarters - when the building was beset by a mob of flood victims. The protestors carrying signs saying "we demand food;" also - "Indira, why are you so late?"

Despite the warnings of security police - Madame Gandhi agreeing at last to address the mob. Mounting a small wooden fence so she could be seen - when her microphone suddenly went dead. In the confusion that followed - someone letting the air out of the tires of the Premier's car. Security men finally rushing Madame Gandhi to the rear of the building - where she was hustled aboard a waiting helicopter.

LONDON

Just out today in London - a special edition of the British Science Journal; an issue devoted entirely to the subject of, quote - "Machines Like Men."

Main contributor - Doctor N.S. Southerland of the University of Sussex; discussing - among other things - a new automatic hypnotizing machine. You press a button - it turns on some tapes - and when you ~~start~~^{stop} pressing the button - you are hypnotized. Which means that in theory, at least, the machine could be pre-set - to assume complete control of the subject's movements, feelings, emotions and so on.

Doctor Southerland further asserting that man is well on the way to making machines - that will be his intellectual superior by far. "In fifty years time" - said he - "we may have ceased to argue about racial problems; we shall be too busy - arguing about whether computers should be entitled to vote." Now, now Dr. Southerland!

PERTH

Next up - a real estate item from Perth, Australia; ending of negotiations for the pending sale - of one of Western Australia's biggest cattle stations; the famed, million acre - moola bulla cattle ranch.

Potential buyers: Kaiser Aluminum of the United States also, Placer Development of Canada. With the selling price - when finally decided - expected to run anywhere from 2 to 3 million.

Mucho moola - for moola bulla - would you say John Shafer? If so boola boola for you.

PARIS

From Paris - a post script today to the wedding of the year. Friends of the just married Mr. and Mrs. Aristotie Socrates Onasis - reporting that the groom's wedding gift to his bride - was a set of matching heart-shaped rubies. Three in all - of enormous size - we are told; two of them set in earrings - the other in a dinner ring - and all of them surrounded by large diamonds. Estimated value: one-point-two million bucks.

Despite the cost though - the gift raising a few eyebrows in Paris fashion circles. At least one designer asserting that rubies, diamonds and so - were considered "bourgeois" symbols of wealth, and ostentatious. Adding, what's more, they are not "in" - as she put it. Ah, but as the Carol Channing song tells us aren't diamonds - and rubies - still a girl's best friend?