

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Christmas at the L.B.J. ranch -- a relaxed family affair. The First family exchanging gifts -- then attending church together. Later, entertaining the Press briefly -- before the traditional Christmas dinner with family and friends.

The President's announced gifts to his wife and daughters -- Gold pins. The First Lady's gift to the President-- a framed quotation from Lincoln: these words -- "I do the very best I know how -- and I mean to keep doing so -- until the end. If the end brings me out alright -- what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong -- ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

The First Lady demonstrating -- that after all it's not the gift that counts -- it's the thought.

## CHRISTMAS

At Christmas services throughout the Nation -- the message as usual was one of Peace and Good will. But on the highways -- quite another story.

The Christmas traffic death toll -- mounting at a record rate. Highways made hazardous in many areas -- by ice, fog, and gusty winds. Quite often also -- by drunken drivers. The fatality toll swelled further -- by a surge of multiple-death accidents. Some of them -- wiping out whole families.

The National Safety Council noting that the death toll at this stage -- already ahead of that set on the "Black Christmas" of Nineteen-Fifty-Six; a four day holiday -- when seven hundred and six lost their lives in traffic accidents. The Safety Council tonight -- once more advising drivers to -- **EX** exercise extreme caution. Or better yet -- stay home.

## FLOODS

*New flood warnings tonight - on the west coast.*

*The Willamette and Columbia Rivers - spilling over their banks and still rising. The Willamette already twenty-one feet above flood level - at Oregon City, Oregon. The city's lower downtown area - already under water. The Rose City of Portland - thirteen miles downstream - bracing tonight for the expected deluge.*

*Nearby, the Columbia River - breaking a fifteen-foot hole in a dike at Hayden Island, Oregon, forcing thirty families to flee for their lives. And to the north - in Washington - flood warnings tonight along the Spokane River, that flows straight through the heart of the city of Spokane. Expected crest tonight, fifteen feet above normal.*

VIET NAM

*In Viet Nam today - American bomb squads searching every U.S. military barracks in Saigon, seeking to prevent a repetition - of that Christmas Eve explosion. The one that killed two Americans - and injured scores more.*

*Another new security measure - special Navy guards posted at the entrances to every building housing American service personnel.*

*That bomb last night - said to have contained anywhere from one-hundred to two hundred pounds high explosives. The blast ripping through layers of brick - and concrete reinforced with steel rods. Demolising two floors of the six-story building. U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Taylor - spending a part of his Christmas Day with the survivors.*



WAVE

The number reported dead in that Indian Tidal Wave -- up to Six-Hundred-Fifty tonight. The previous death toll -- set at Five Hundred. But Indian officials now reporting no trace of survivors aboard a train. Swamped by tidal waves that swept over the Island of Rameshwaram. All One-Hundred-Fifty passengers -- presumed dead.

RACE

*The Federal Bureau of Investigation is reported checking several leads tonight - in the latest incident of racial violence in the south. On Christmas Eve - just before midnight - three white men spraying bullets into a tavern crowded with Negroes. The Weapon used - apparently a machine gun. In all - seven wounded. At Deerfield Beach, Florida, on the so-called "Goldcoast" - some 60 miles south of where I spent Christmas; where there has been little - if any - racial violence in the past.*

ITALY

Italy -- still without a government tonight. The Italian Parliament called into extraordinary Christmas session -- in another attempt to name a successor to retired President ~~Amadori~~ Antonio Segni. In the balloting -- veteran Socialist Leader Pietro Nenni -- way out in front; but still far short -- of a majority. The Sixteenth successive vote on a new President -- again inconclusive. The Rome Government crisis -- now in its tenth day. Making Italy's latest Presidential Election -- the longest in European history.

## MALAYSIA

*From Malaysia tonight, Indonesian raiders seized in the Straits of Malacca - not far from the capitol city of Kuala Lumpur. The British frigate Ajax. Capturing twenty-two of the raiders, and seven sampans filled with high explosives.*

*Some thirty guerrillas are believed to have landed on Wednesday - about thirty miles west of Singapore. Three killed yesterday in a running gun battle. Eleven more - captured today.*



## TIBET

*News from Tibet - a brief item - that may tell more than ten thousand words.*

*The Panchen Lama - puppet ruler of Tibet since the Red Chinese takeover - missing this week from the roster of delegates to the National People's Congress in Peking. His absence said to indicate - one of two things: - either he has been demoted - or he has outlived his political usefulness.*

*The latter - considered the more likely. Only recently - the Red Chinese military commander in Tibet - reported to have issued a stinging verbal attack on a number of unidentified Tibetans. General Chang Kuo-Hua lashing out at alleged scheming to re-integrate - politics and religion, and obvious reference to Tibetan ideology before the revolt of nineteen-fifty-nine. The Dalai Lama - now in exile in India - then both spiritual and temporal leader beyond the high Himalayas. Now, ehre is the Panchen Lama?*

**FABLE**

***This next dateline - Moscow, and if I hadn't  
told you - you soon would have guessed.***

***The item contained today - in a Soviet newspaper.  
The Russian writer calling the story of Christ - the myth  
of a man who never was. And calling the Christmas legend,  
"a fairy tale - that pollutes the minds of believers."***

***That - from Godless Russia, Dick!***

## QUAKE

Another earthquake today. - This one off the coast of Japan. The shock centered some sixty miles south of Tokyo - near the island of Oshima. Oshima - the site of Mount Miharo - an active volcano. In Tokyo itself - the quake shaking tall buildings - but no immediate reports of damage.

This latest shock - the sharpest in a series of tremors that have rocked the main island of Honshu in the past two weeks. On one day - no less than ninety of them. But to experienced Japanese seismologists --perhaps a bit blasé--just another earthquake.