

October 10, 1969
Mike Wallace
(Taken from carbon copy,
original lost.)

VIETNAM

In Vietnam - a rare public statement today from General Creighton Abrams. The U.S. Commander asserting: "The grip of the enemy is being loosened - the Viet Cong apparatus is being ground up." This in the midst of a battle lull - that has lasted more than a month now.

At the same time - the U.S. today placed eighty river patrol boats under South Vietnamese command. According to Deputy U.S. Ambassador Samuel Berger - this serving as a tribute to "the Vietnamese people - who are fighting so valiantly for their country's independence and freedom."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW VIETNAM

Here at home - former Vice President Hubert Humphrey was a surprise caller today - at the White House. Conferring with the President's Adviser on National Security - Dr. Henry Kissinger - an old friend; whereupon the President heard he was there - and invited his ex-foe in for an hour-long talk.

Chief topic - Vietnam. Hubert Humphrey later echoing the President's words - in appealing for public patience and support in the search for peace. Humphrey further expressing his conviction - that the Chief Executive is "proceeding along the right path" on Vietnam. He warned though - it takes time. Adding that "one of the worst things we could do - is to undermine the President."

HERSHEY FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

This afternoon - a second White House conference.

When it was all over - the end of the line for Selective Service Director Lewis Hershey. President Nixon relieving Hershey of his draft duties - effective February Sixteenth; at which time he will be promoted to four-star general - and named an advisor to the President on manpower mobilization. In parting, the President declaring: "The nation owes General Hershey a hearty 'well done'."

As to the General's successor - that we'll have to wait and see. However, the White House saying - it will be "most likely" a civilian.

PARIS FOLLOW HERSHEY

Meantime, Henry Cabot Lodge was flying home today from Paris - headed for consultation in Washington. This raising speculation - that the President is perhaps undertaking a major reevaluation of Vietnam policy. However, Lodge himself calling it - "normal procedure to consult with the President every six weeks."

On leaving Paris - Lodge was also asked his opinion - of the anti-war movement here in the States. His answer: "I, too, am against war."

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"MICRONESIA-MULAHEY")

*And now - time for Lowell Thomas again. From his
vantage point at Hawaii - telling tonight a new tale of the
South Pacific. Lowell...*

MICRONESIA - Mulahey

Hello Everybody: You are all aware I am sure, that since World War Two, Uncle Sam has had as a part of his domain some thousands of islands in the Far Pacific. These are spread out over an area twice the size of the United States; twice the size of the continent of Australia. Interior Secretary Hickel was there recently, and when I spent some time with him the other day in Colorado Springs at the Governor's conference he was most enthusiastic about his visit to Micronesia.

The American who knows more about the Pacific isles than anyone else is Bill Mulahey, veteran Pan Am official in Hawaii. There may be a plebiscite in Micronesia two years from now to vote on whether or not those islands in the Far Pacific should become our fifty-first state.

In Micronesia alone there are some three thousand islands says Bill that could be inhabited but only a hundred and four of them now have anyone living on them, with a total

population of less than a hundred thousand.

But instead of including all of them in one new state Mulahey suggests that the Eastern Carolines, the Marshalls and the so-called Bird Island chain, be combined with Hawaii. Charles Lindbergh, who is devoting most of his time to conservation, these days, is trying to have these Bird Islands proclaimed a permanent bird sanctuary.

Bill Mulahey suggests that the other islands still farther west be combined into a new Fifty-First State to be called PACIFICIA. These to include the Pallaus, the western Carolines, and the Mariannas, with Guam for their capital. Including spectacular Truk.

Solong....

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "MICRONESIA-
MULAHEY")

Thank you, Lowell. More - in a moment.

WILKES-BARRE

At Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania - the parents of Mary Jo Kopechne lost another bid today - to prevent an autopsy on the dead girls' body. Instead, Judge Bernard Brominski ordered a full hearing on the matter - to begin as of October Twentieth - ten days from now. The Judge asserting that "only a hearing - will bring to light facts that will allow the court to resolve this question;" and thus serve the best interests - of both "the public and the Kopechnes."

OSLO

Oslo, Norway - another rip-roaring welcome today - for America's globe-girdling Apollo-Eleven astronauts. Including a parade, as usual - a reception at Norway's Parliament Building - lunch with King Olav; and then, at last - a well-deserved rest.

The three "moonmen" and their wives - spending the weekend at a Norwegian mountain retreat before resuming their travels. Giving Neil Armstrong, for one - a chance to recover from that slight cold he seems to have picked up.

SAIGON

Here's one - a study of U.S. civilians working in Vietnam - some thirteen thousand men and women, in all; a study compiled by Dr. John Talbot - an Army psychiatrist in Saigon; coming to the conclusion - it takes a very special person to volunteer for such duty.

The men, for example - mostly "soldier of fortune" types - says Dr. Talbot. Attempting to regain "their lost youth - to revive their dashed hopes;" far from rules, regulations and bossy American wives and sweethearts."

As for the women - they're searching for "excitement involvement in a 'good cause' - and plenty of dashing, virile men" - says Dr. Talbot. And he calls this - the "queen for a year syndrome."

The doctor adds, however, that both sexes - end up about equally disappointed. And the reason - we are told - the fact that Vietnam "can be, in reality, a very lonely post."